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THE
PALL MALL
GAZETTE

No. 7739.—Vol. L. *TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7, 1890.* *Price One Penny.*

Paris Exhibition.
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"MAGGI."—Liquid Extract of Fresh Beef.
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TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE, THEATRE ROYAL.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY at 1.30, and TO-NIGHT at 7.15, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Leon, Lauri, jun., Griffiths Bros., Conquest, jun., Leopold Bros., Fleon, Stanton, Abbs, Harry Payne, and Herbert Campbell; Misses Harriett Vernon, Faudelle, Hewitt, Wilson, Compton, Charters, Deering Bennett, Grey, Jones, and Maggie Duggan.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, A SAD DOG SHADOW by Robert Buchanan. Mr. TREE as Laroque and Luy Rnan. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, Tapping, Garney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Maude Terry, Miss Norreys, Miss Rorke. At 7.45, QUITE FOR NOTHING. Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved) 2s. 6d. Gallery 1s.
MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW SATURDAY NEXT and FOLLOWING SATURDAY, at 2.30.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
THE DEAD HEART.—A Story of the French Revolution. TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock, Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips, and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45.—Lyceum.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Wyndham.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, CASTE. (Last Nights.) Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. C. Brookfield, Mr. A. Elwood, and Mr. David James; Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Olga Brandon, Mrs. C. Poole. Preceded by, at 8, SUNSHINE. Doors open 7.45. LAST MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.

GAIETY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred Leslie Mr. Fred Storey, Mr. Dalton Somers. Doors open at 7.30.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
Return of Mr. J. L. TOOLE for Series of Five Weeks' FAREWELL PERFORMANCES prior to his departure for Australia.
TO-NIGHT (for Four Nights only), and SATURDAY AFTERNOON NEXT, PAUL PRY and DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—Box-office open daily 10 to 6. THE BUNGALOW, by Fred Hornes, THIS AFTERNOON.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in the world, constructed entirely with concrete and iron, absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout by electricity.
LAST THREE WEEKS.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, SWEET LAVENDER. (654th time). Mr. Edward Terry and powerful Company. Carriages at 11. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY. Immense success. 100th Night. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Maclyn, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Ballour, M. Rode, R. Russell, James Esse, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.; Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliot, and Clara Jecloe. Doors open at 7.0. FOLLY'S VENTURE at 7.45.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Thomas Thorne.)
EVERY EVENING the successful Comedy-Drama, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART, by Robert Buchanan. Grand time. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. Cyril Maude, Frank Gillmore, F. Grove, C. Harbury, J. S. Blythe, Stanley Hope, and Fred Thorne; Misses Ella Banister, Sylvia Hodson, Coralie Owen, L. Bryer, &c. Doors open 7.30. Overture at 8.0. Box office open 10 to 5.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager Mr. F. R. Benson.)
THIS DAY, at 8, doors open 7.30, overture 8.0, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, with the Mendelssohn Incidental Music.—Messrs. S. Price, J. Brydone, F. R. Benson, H. Ross, G. M. Howard, H. Athol Forde, G. F. Bluck, G. R. Weir, S. Phillips, H. C. Tonbridge, A. Greenville, O. Stuart; Mesdames M. Grey, A. Ferrar, Kate Rorke, F. R. Benson, G. Geraldine, M. Townsend, M. Woolgar Mellon, M. Mitchelmore.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.
TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, Henry Pettitt and George R. Sims' powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, E. W. Gardiner, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, R. Mayeur, E. Saker; Mesdames Lingard, Mary Rorke, Hunsley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Horace Sedger.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.15, PAUL JONES. (350th performance.) Last Nights. Preceded by, at 7.30, JOHN MAN. In which Messrs. Arthur Broughton, Evelyn Lee, Florence Dorley, and Camille D'Arville; Messrs. Harry Monkhouse, Templer Saxe, Albert James, W. Cheesman, George Preston, A. E. Henson, and Henry Webley. LAST MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30. Telephone No. 3,709.

CARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Hare.)
THIS EVENING at eight, LA TOSCA. Messrs. Bernard Beere, Rose Leclercq, Bessie Hatton; Messrs. Lewis Waller, Herbert Waring, Sidney Brough, Gilbert Farquhar, Lawrance D'Orsay, C. Dodsworth, J. G. Hodson, W. H. Knight, F. Worsell, R. Power, S. Pringle, R. Harding, and J. Forbes-Robertson. Address applications for seats to Box-office, open from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. Doors open at 7.30 P.M. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. Compton.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. Willard and John Lart, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. John Lancaster
THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.
Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Gordon, H. Cane, E. Rymond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Agnes Verity, Ida Molesworth, and Miss Rosina Filippi. Box office open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. Griffiths. SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, H. Coveney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Chrisman, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams.

COMEDY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by James Albery, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Robert Standing, Alfred Maltby, A. Bowcicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Gaisney, Robertson, Cowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh
TO-NIGHT at 8, 150th performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Capo, Mr. A. Ayresworth, Mr. W. Philips, Mr. F. Farrell, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Denton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Jessie Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.10, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren, Miss E. Harwood, and Mrs. Leigh.
NOTICE.—TWO SPECIAL MATINEES of AUNT JACK, SATURDAYS, January 11 and 18. Doors open 2, commence at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mons. C. D. Marius.)
TO-NIGHT, at 9 o'clock, THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD, with New and Popular Music, arranged by John Crook. Preceded, at 8.15, by LA ROSE D'AUVERGNE, by Offenbach, and a Specialty. At 7.30, THE BARRISTER. Messrs. Albert Chevalier, Joseph Tapley, George Sinclair, George Capel, Harry Gratian, W. Warde, R. V. Edmond, and Julian Cross; Mesdames Marie Linden, Minnie Byron, Violet Evelyn, Henriette Polak, Amelia Grahn, Maria Davis, Isabel Ellissen, &c. Conductor, Mr. John Crook. Produced by Mons. Marius. Doors open 7.15. Box plan now open. Business Manager, Mr. R. D'Alberson. EVERY DAY at 2.30, the Christmas Edition of "THE BELLES OF THE VILLAGE," new scenes, new cartoons, new effects, new scenes, introducing an old-fashioned Harlequinade and Fairy Ballet. Produced by Mons. C. D. Marius. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box plan open daily. Children Half-price

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.
"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.20. Signorina Zenone; Misses. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Scotti, and Signor De Vonni. Varieties by Miss Jennie Williams, Herr Saadow (the modern Herschel) and Professor Attila. Ross and Bobb, the Toriska Troupe, Wingfield's Performing Dogs, Harry Anderson, Harry Freeman, the Almonti Pantomime Troupe, Marie Lloyd, and James Fawn. Open 7.30 until 11.30.

EMPIRE.
Commence at 8. Two Grand Ballets. At 1.20 A DREAM OF WEALTH. Mdlles. Palladino and Fatima de Sorti, Signor Alfieri and Signorina Matvan Cavalieri. Grand Variety Interlude. At 10.0, the Grand Ballet Divertissement in three Tableaux, by Mdme. Katti Lanner, entitled A DREAM OF WEALTH. Music composed by M. Leopold Wenzel. Varoni, WEDNESDAY.

ROYAL: Holborn.
GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Special engagement of Lockhart's performing Elephants, G. H. Stuckemann, the popular actor and vocalist; Lydia Yeamans, queen of song; Bibb and Bobby the funny Continental clowns; the Manneus, in a novel musical absurdity; Yeamans, the wonderful tap; Marie Lloyd, serio and dansense; the Brandons, American variety artists; Ortawa and Pepper; La Petite Bertha, the charming transformation dancer; Waldron Wason, and Naylor, the funny trio; Nellie Cavendish, serio; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Vesta Victoria, characteristic serio; Lieut. Travis, the premier ventriloquist of the world; and others.
EVENINGS at 7.30. SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £3 3s.

MR. ASQUITH'S APPEAL.

NOT for the first time Mr. ASQUITH gave bold and forcible expression yesterday to convictions which have long been latent in the minds of the more intelligent and independent members of the Liberal Party. "The leaders of the Liberal Party would," he said, "be acting wisely and justly if they were to take the country a little more into their confidence in this matter" of Home Rule. Mr. ASQUITH was addressing the Junior Liberal Association of Leeds, and we do not doubt that his words met with many a responsive echo, felt if unexpressed. We are all loyal to our Leader; and at caucuses and other places where we congregate in public, it is not discreet to make even a murmur of rebellion. But everybody knows that every time of late when Mr. GLADSTONE has spoken—and said nothing—the speech—and the silence—has been followed by keen disappointment. Wherever two or three thoughtful Liberals have assembled together, there has the wish been expressed that something had been said to make the party know a little more where it stood. The effect of such feelings, however carefully they may be concealed from the vulgar, cannot but be paralyzing to the party. Professor STUART says that the London Liberals care nothing any longer about Home Rule. Is not the reason to be found perhaps in the fact that they know so little about it? It is impossible, he adds, to go on talking Home Rule for ever. It certainly is when you can "get no forrader," because you do not know where you are going.

The risk of paralysis among the Liberals is not, however, the only evil result of the policy of reticence on the part of our leaders. There are two other dangers—very great and very definite, and it was upon these that Mr. ASQUITH laid most stress. "What he wanted of the Liberal leaders," he said, "was to define as far as possible their position, so as to disarm at one and the same time the Opposition in front and the rebels behind." By "the rebels behind" Mr. ASQUITH means "independent" members of the party, who if the Home Rule Bill were only to be produced after the next General Election, might then turn round and say, "Our electors sent us to support Home Rule, but this is not the kind of Home Rule they intended us to support, and we shall go into a Cave." We must confess that upon this point Mr. ASQUITH seems to us not quite clear. The word "rebels" is hardly felicitous, and the thing he means is hardly probable. What is much more likely—if the policy of "mum" continues—than an incipient cave, is a continuance of abstentions. The last election was lost by the abstainers—by the men who were not certain about Home Rule, and who therefore stayed away. It is on the cards that they may stay away next time also, if Mr. GLADSTONE leaves them still uncertain as to what he is after. The danger from the "unscrupulous Opposition" is more definite. Both Tories and Liberal Unionists have already shown their hand. Lord SALISBURY has openly declared that obstruction in both Houses would be the order of the day. Sir HENRY JAMES, in a recent speech which has doubtless already attracted Mr. GLADSTONE'S attention, defended Lord SALISBURY'S declaration as follows:—

> The electorate have a right to determine upon every great measure that is proposed in Parliament. We say that, in the interests of those who make that proposition, they must submit its nature and principles to the electorate before it is produced in Parliament. If they do not, in what a false position, from a democratic point of view, from a Liberal point of view, will they place the House of Lords! If the electorate gives its opinion upon a great measure, it is true, according to the constitution of this country, that the House of Lords must listen to the voice of the people; but if the electorate has expressed no opinion on the subject, it is not only the right, but the duty, of the House of Lords to send that measure back for the consideration of the country.

With warnings so emphatic as this staring us in the face, it was surely high time that some one should take up his parable, as Mr. ASQUITH did at Leeds last night, and protest against the policy of leaving the country in the dark.

An old Parliamentary Hand like Mr. GLADSTONE is not blind, of course, to the obvious considerations urged by Mr. ASQUITH. Mr. GLADSTONE'S own idea is, we believe, to keep silence for the present, in order to give away no points to the Opposition; but as soon as the present Parliament reaches its last session, to produce a string of Resolutions in which all the principles of his new Home Rule scheme will be laid down, and on which he will at the General Election appeal to the country. Supposing there were to be no surprise (for dissolutions are sometimes sprung upon us like a thunder-clap from a clear sky), we do not say that Mr. GLADSTONE'S tactics would not have many advantages. They would also meet the two specific dangers on which Mr. ASQUITH chiefly dwelt. Neither "the Opposition in front" nor "the rebels behind" would have any excuse for saying that they did not know what a policy was, if that policy had been embodied in Resolutions. But this putting off of definition till the last moment would do nothing to improve the situation now and here. The faithful rank-and-file are entitled to consideration as well as the Enemy and the Rebels; and unless some crumbs of confidence are thrown to them, Mr. ASQUITH'S speech shows that there is a danger of some of the best stuff in the Liberal Party being afflicted, on this matter of Home Rule, with creeping paralysis.

NEWTON HALL AND THE PRESS.

By Mr. Frederic Harrison.

WHILST newspapers in various parts of the country are making merry over what *I did not say*, I should like to ask honest critics to wait until they see an authentic print of what I did say on New Year's Day. I have no objection to any amount of criticism on whatever I may write. But to make up articles upon a hasty and confused paraphrase of a set address of mine delivered to my own friends—a paraphrase published solely as the text for an attack by a personal enemy—this can only lead, not to fair criticism, but to deliberate misrepresentation.

This misrepresentation is of a somewhat unusual kind, even in the violence of party warfare. When a politician or a party man makes a speech, he is either reported in full or with fair accuracy and understanding. The reporter is perfectly familiar with the topics and allusions made; and if he were to garble a speech at all, the party organ on the other side would nail the fraud to the counter. When a preacher speaks in a church, chapel, or schoolroom, common decency respects the intentions of the speaker; and, whether we agree with him or not, his words are not twisted into a sensational paragraph, and he is not made the butt of a venomous parody. When a man gives a scientific or literary lecture, he arouses no party or polemical passions.

The case is very different when my friends and myself speak in Newton Hall. It is a place rented and maintained by those who use it for study, discussion, social and religious education. It is open to any comer; but reporters are told that no facilities can be given them, and that no reporting is desired. We cannot expect *verbatim* reports, and we much object to any others. We belong to no party, and have no party organs to support us. We speak always openly with our names; we say what we think plainly and fearlessly; we are ready to pay with our person for the words we utter. We teach, lecture, argue, or address those who wish to hear us at our own cost and labour freely. We know that we are as yet in a very small minority, and that much which we hold, put it how one will, is most unwelcome to the average man.

We do not invite the man in the street. But we think that, if he comes, he ought to behave with decency. Now, just because there is something unfamiliar, the ubiquitous reporter drops in. What he hears may require some attention—or a little reading to follow. That, of course, he has no time to give. No fairminded person who enters Newton Hall will deny that what he there sees and hears is simple, unpretending, dignified, and manly. The paragraph-writer has one note that it is not like a Church or a Chapel, he hears something which surprises him, and runs off into Fleet-street with his little jape. We do not grudge him his evening's work. The labourer is worthy of his hire. But I regret that scores and scores of articles are written about us based on no other knowledge than that supplied in the way of business by our comic friend.

I am well aware of the difficulties of reporters and editors under the pressure of matter and the rush of time. All that we ask is to be judged by what we publish, and not by a casual scrap or a crude paraphrase which now and then an editor may find it convenient to insert. The *Pall Mall Gazette* of last Thursday published a short summary of my New Year's address. It was perfectly fair, done with care and intelligence, the work of a practised hand intent on the speaker's meaning. I doubt if I could do it so well myself; but I would rather be without it. Being a summary it inevitably varied my meaning. All the qualifications, provisoes, and balanced parts of each statement disappeared from the sentence. The impression was

STAGE AND SONG.

The Oxford University Dramatic Society have, after all, abandoned the notion of giving Marlowe's "Jew of Malta" next month. Instead of this somewhat lugubrious old drama, the academic histrions are anxious to produce one of the late Robert Browning's plays. "Strafford" has been selected as the work of all others for the Oxford students to grapple with, and the family of the dead poet are now being consulted on the matter.

* * * * *

The Theatre Royal Chelsea Barracks is not to go without its burlesque this winter, for Tommy Atkins and his commanders have grown to regard this pleasant little series of performances as quite an annual institution. Several councils-of-war have been held, and preparations are now being vigorously pushed forward. The idea is to revive the old Gaiety "Fra Diavolo"—written up to date, of course, and furnished with new and appropriate music. According to custom, Mr. Edward Solomon has been asked to supply this latter important item, but it is doubtful if his many engagements will allow him to participate in the Chelsea frolic this year.

* * * * *

Mr. Edward Solomon, by the way, has undertaken to furnish the two next operas at the Lyric Theatre. For the first of these Mr. Leslie is said to have already secured a *libretto*, but the name of the writer is at present the most solemn of secrets.

* * * * *

The comic side of the Drury Lane pantomime has been considerably developed since boxing Night, and Messrs. Nicholls and Campbell have begun to really feel their feet. This latter comedian now makes an elaborate running commentary of a humorous character on the progress of the Shaksperian procession. This informal lecture is decidedly funny; but is it not a little hard on the conscientious supers who have to look as medievally convincing as possible under the fire of Mr. Campbell's modern Cockney "gag"?

* * * * *

At Her Majesty's the company has been strengthened by the addition of Miss Violet Cameron, who, happily recovered from her late severe illness, sings and acts with all her old charm. Mr. Charles Harris's gigantic pageants still excite an amount of enthusiasm nightly which is only satisfied when a pale but resolute gentleman steps from the prompt corner and duly abases himself.

* * * * *

On Saturday evening, by the way, there was a nasty little accident in the fire scene. The ponies harnessed to one of the fire-engines were not checked quite soon enough by the boys in charge of them, and they consequently plunged heavily into the prompter's box in front of the conductor's seat, where two or three powerful electric lights were fixed. The electrician and his apparatus were sent flying in all directions, and for the moment all was confusion. Some stalwart carpenters, however, soon readjusted matters and extricated the obstreperous animals from the wreckage they had made. But I could not help shuddering as I watched the boys and ponies struggling in the midst of the overturned lamps and contemplated the result of one of the many arms or legs coming into contact with the flaring carbons. Seriously speaking, it is a matter for congratulation that no lives were lost on the occasion.

* * * * *

Mr. Frank Benson tells me that his Saturday matinées of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" have proved so attractive that for the future Wednesday afternoon will also be devoted to Shakspeare's fairy comedy. "The Taming of the Shrew" will be revived on the 16th inst. and repeated every Thursday and Friday. Mrs. Benson will be the Katherine.

* * * * *

After all, "Forgiven" will not follow "Caste" at the Criterion Theatre. The play had been thoroughly rehearsed and was practically ready for production when Mr. Charles Wyndham in America set the cable at work and put a final stopper on the revival. This certainly seems a peculiar piece of managerial policy; but then the volatile Charles, who is fond of such vagaries, has done the same sort of thing before.

* * * * *

In place of the discarded "Forgiven," Byron's "Cyril's Success" goes into rehearsal to-day. Truly a curious notion, this revival!

* * * * *

"Tra la la Tosca," which has suffered two postponements, will, I believe positively be produced on Thursday evening. In the meantime "The New Corsican Brothers" has been allowed to die a peaceful death. Mr. Burnand has apparently followed his usual plans of parody in his latest skit, and one can only hope that the humorous light which he has endeavoured to shed upon Sardou's blood-curdler will in no way be dimmed by the interpreters of the travesty. I hear that Mr. Florian Pascal has written some capital music for the production.

* * * * *

I imagine that there is no word of truth in the report which states that "Esther Sandraz" is to be the next Haymarket production.

R. U. K.

changed, as this or that had to be erased. When my task was to put into an hour's lecture the proceedings and the public questions of the year, I was forced to weigh my words and to touch many things with allusions carefully chosen. My hearers, familiar with what I have been saying for years, could follow my meaning. A casual reporter could not; and he naturally jots down the things which chance to strike him. I do not complain of him. It is what all who mount a platform must accept. It is the custom of the day. The reporter's art is a very wonderful one. Given the hurry and the conditions, the wonder is, as Dr. Johnson said, that it is done at all. But it is reasonable to expect that honest writers who criticise public speakers should try to find out whether they have before them a fair and real report of the speech.

On the 2nd of January the *Times* published a report of my last annual address. It was not ill-done, and not intended to be unfair. But being reduced to about one-third in bulk, it was necessarily a paraphrase of my words. No single sentence is a true report; phrases are given without the context, qualification, and proviso which modified them; long passages are reduced to a single phrase, and the meanings of many passages are changed. That is inevitable, when a carefully-studied essay has to be condensed into a column. But the writer who assumes it to be a *verbatim* report incurs deliberate misrepresentation. The *Spectator*, as usual, comes foremost in its perversion of the truth—*ad majorem Dei gloriam*. Three years running I have had to expose the way in which the *Spectator* has chosen to put into my mouth that which I never said. This year, on Thursday last was published my letter repudiating the *Times* report as inaccurate, and I especially mentioned the topics of Ireland and Socialism. On Saturday the *Spectator* publishes two paragraphs attacking me, based on the report which I had stigmatized as incorrect, and on the very points where I pointed out incorrectness. My argument about Ireland was this. The Irish question is a question of landlordism; and a hope of settling it may be drawn from this, that the English people seem disposed to deal with the question of landlordism generally in town and country. In the *Times* report this appears—"that the deliverance of England must come first from Ireland:"—which is obvious nonsense, transposing my words. But the *Spectator* amplifies it thus: "Positivism has achieved great conquests in Ireland, by converting the Irish people to the conviction that they must sacrifice the landlords on account of their anti-social policy." Every word of this is pure invention, as much as if I were to write, that "the *Spectator* is promoting a Bill to have the Second Lesson in all Church services taken out of *Robert Elsmere*." I said nothing about Positivism achieving conquests in Ireland, nothing about converting the Irish people, nothing about the Irish people at all. I spoke of the English people taking up the question of landlordism in England. This the *Times* reporter blunderingly misreports. And on this blunder the *Spectator* builds its entirely wanton fabrication. It has done it before, and it will do it again. For of all actual journals, but one, the *Spectator* is the most untruthful in matters of fact. It was only last Saturday that I had to expose one of its misstatements about a recent trial.

The same paper entirely misrepresents what I said about Socialism. My address stated that, having fully treated the question of Socialism quite recently, I should not return to it except to repeat, that the only practicable socialism was one which, whilst subjecting property to a social and religious control, would respect the freedom of the individual, the complete sanctity of the family, and the personal appropriation of capital in the hands of responsible men. This passage was cut down in the *Times* report to an advocacy of "Socialism which was founded on the Family." I need hardly say that such a remark is crude nonsense. But the untruth is enough for the *Spectator* to found its attack.

In the same way, the *Spectator* and others charge me with speaking with undue confidence. This is done by the chief process of suppressing every word in which I expressed a very different spirit. My account of what had been done in Newton Hall was given in the same form in which a similar account would be given at Toynbee Hall, Bedford Chapel, or any institution of the kind. It seems that I expressed some firm belief in our own faith. I presume that is done by every preacher in a thousand churches and chapels. It seems that I expressed an opinion very definitely on some leading events of the year. I presume that is what every editor in England has been doing for some time past. The world is told that bitter hatred exists between Positivists in Newton Hall and in other bodies. Three days ago a leader from one of these wrote to me—"we all know well the reality and depth of underlying agreement and feeling that exists between us."

It would be unnecessary to make any remark upon the attack on me by the *Times*, founded on its own incorrect report. I was fully prepared for it, for I knew the rancour of which I am the object for the part that I took in enforcing the lesson of the Pigott forgeries. I am content to leave all decent and honourable men to judge between me and them. And I warn them, to begin with, that the pay-masters of Pigott deliberately publish to the world as his "own words" in inverted commas words that a public speaker did not utter, and then proceed to palm off upon him a phrase which is a mere invention of the reporter.

THE NEW "INDIAN CIVIL" REGULATIONS.

MR. G. E. CRAWFORD, B.A., writes to us on this subject as follows:—

I wish you would open your columns to a discussion of the recent change in the Indian Civil Service examination, by which candidates will in future be chosen between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-three instead of 17-19 as before. The public hardly seem to appreciate the importance of this new departure, or are satisfied with believing that the authorities can do no wrong. I hope to show that if this latest decision of theirs takes effect the results must be calamitous to all concerned, and more especially to the professional man with a small income and many sons. We can look at it from three points of view—India, the Universities, and the British parent. Ostensibly the limit of age has been raised in the interests of India. A better class of men, we are asked to believe, will be attracted, and Indian natives who wish to be educated in their own country will have more time for preparation. Delusions, both of them! At present the Indian Civil picks off the very flower of our intellectual youth. Parents are impressed with an almost exaggerated sense of the prospects and advantages of the service, and the examination is vaguely believed to be something far harder than the mathematical tripos. I remember how at school the cleverest boys in the upper forms were almost forced into that career by the pressure of opinion; parents conspiring with masters to drive them out of the old country. And so far from telling in favour of native Indians, the new rule will handicap them severely, because the native intellect is precocious, and attains its maximum development long before the proposed age of twenty-one.

How will the new rule affect Oxford and Cambridge? In one way favourably. At present the successful C.S.I. candidates in residence at the University are *in it* merely, but not *of it*. They gang their ain gait in many ways displeasing alike to college lecturers and the college porter. In future this Indian coterie will disappear; but one is puzzled to discover how more or better men will be attracted to fill their place.

This brings me to the question of expense, which is fundamental. Money is the grand bait of the Indian Civil, and money also is the great bugbear. Only very clever boys can now pass direct from the public schools; the others must "cram" at a cost of £200 to £300 a year. Many of the big schools are making heroic endeavours to keep up a cramming annexe; but their success is bought at the cost of great pains and worry and dislocation of the school routine. The change in age will take the last puff of wind out of their sails, and headmasters will cease to attempt the impossible.

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OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We heartily agree with the Peace Society in "earnestly hoping" that "her Majesty's Government will do all in their power to prevent the territory of an uncivilized and unoffending people becoming the scene of reprisals and contentions, or the arena on which the quarrels of its stronger neighbours are conducted, and thus inflicting unmerited suffering and misery." There is only one way of securing this object, and that is by compelling Portugal—by pressure brought to bear, not in Nyassaland, but in Delagoa Bay—to restore the *status quo* in the district on which Majo. Serpa Pinto has "inflicted unmerited suffering and misery." In one respect, unhappily, the restoration of the *status quo* is impossible. The Portuguese selected for their raid the season when the natives should have been busy sowing their ground. As Mr. Horace Waller says, "the devastating Gatlings and the howling Zulus mean an inevitable scarcity, if not absolute famine, in 1890."

The City, it is clear, is entirely of the mind that we expressed, in commenting on Mr. Selous's letters yesterday. The development of British enterprise on both sides of the Zambesi cannot be permanently destroyed, even if it be temporarily checked, by Portuguese ambition. The Exploring Company's shares which rose to 21 in consequence of the charter to Mr. Rhodes' company fell to 14, in consequence of Major Serpa Pinto's proceedings. But by yesterday a better tone had become predominant, and the shares rose to 19. Herein the City accurately reflects the political situation.

Mr. Stanley's lay sermon from Ugogo, which is published this morning is as interesting as any letter he has written. His praise of missions and their practical work will do more to help the societies than all the apologetics which Canon Isaac Taylor's recent onslaught called forth. One may doubt perhaps—as Mr. Stanley himself seems to have doubted—the entire sincerity of the native deputation, each member of which "possessed a prayer-book and the Gospel of Matthew printed in Kiganda, and as soon as he retired from my presence went to study the prayer-book." But on the practical side of the matter, nothing can be more satisfactory than the story of Mwanga's deposition. "What would have pleased Livingstone so much," says Mr Stanley, "is that a body of Christians can become in twelve years so numerous and formidable as to depose the most absolute and powerful King in Africa, and hold their own against any number of combinations hostile to them. What can a man wish better for a proof that Christianity is possible in Africa?"

It was this practical, civilizing side of Christianity which first attracted Stanley to Livingstone, and convinced him of the nobility of Christian missions. Here is a passage, which it is interesting to recall this morning, wherein Mr. Stanley laid down his position:—

It is the practical Christian tutor who can teach people how to become Christians, cure their diseases, construct dwellings, understand and exemplify agriculture, turn his hand to anything, like a sailor—this is the man who is wanted. Such a one, if he can be found, would become the saviour of Africa. He must be tied to no Church or sect, but possess God and His Son and the moral law, and live a blameless Christian, inspired by liberal principles, charity to all men, and devout faith in heaven. He must belong to no nation in particular, but to the entire white race.

That was written many years ago; but further experience has only confirmed Mr. Stanley's opinion of the high value of Christian missions to the cause alike of true religion and of civilization.

"*A propos* of Scotchmen, can you tell me why they succeed oftener than other people?" So asks Mr. Stanley, nor does he pause for an answer. "It is because they have been more educated in one thing than all others. While I say this I review mentally all whom I know and have met, and I repeat the statement confidently. That one thing is duty." Therein Mr. Stanley is of Carlyle's opinion and Carlyle's practice; for was not the "road melody, or marching-music," with which Carlyle concluded his address to the youth of Scotland, the Psalm of Duty?

But heard are the Voices, Heard are the Sages, The Worlds and the Ages: "Choose well," your choice is Brief, and yet endless.	Here eves do regard you In Eternity's stillness; Here is all fullness, Ye brave, to reward you; Work, and despair not."

But is it certain that porridge has nothing to do with the secret of Scottish success?

Yesterday it seemed as if the palates of the morbid were about to be tickled by another sensational murder, for there were all the elements of a first class shocker in the "Chiswick Mystery." *Scenario*: "A lady lives alone in a Chiswick villa; her servant is away on a holiday. Close on the hour of midnight strange voices are heard in her drawing-room by a passing neighbour, and mysterious lights are seen moving about. The next day the lady is found dead on her bed, with the case of a night-dress stuffed into her mouth." Last night the mystery, which promised to be so exciting, was cleared up in a very simple manner. The unfortunate woman had died from suffocation, having swallowed her false teeth, which were found in her gullet. After such an ending it is obvious that no plot-hunting novelist will concern himself further about the "Chiswick Mystery," but what, we wonder, will the dentists say? Most of us who are over twenty own one or more of these dental adjuncts to beauty and aids to digestion. Is it not rather alarming?

Mr. Wynne Baxter's suggestion that a few inquests on East-end bodies should be held in West-end parishes, just to show Dives in Eaton-square how poor Lazarus in Whitechapel starves, is surely practical. These inquests would present some object lessons which would send Dives away with his ears tingling. Or, the juries might be mixed if it was thought that Dives would be so overwhelmed by the revelations that the coroner would never get on to the next case. The case which called forth Mr. Baxter's suggestion was, need we say? one of cruel starvation—death by inches; and it was the *fourth* he had held that day.

There are several other pathetic cases reported in this morning's papers which are not dealt with by the coroner. (1) Isabella Law, an old woman of sixty-seven, was found frozen to death in a quarry. She was on the tramp, lost her way, and, dazed by the cruel weather, lay down and died. (2) Kate Kennedy was locked up for her third attempt to commit suicide. (3) Jane Carter tried to drown herself in the Thames. She was driven to this by the telephone, which, she said, was put into her ear by wicked people, and called her bad names. This was barely tolerable, but when she received an insulting message over the wire, alleging that she had not the pluck to commit suicide, she went and threw herself into the river. (4) The thirty-second suicide from Clifton suspension bridge is recorded—the third in about a month!

Here are two views of the present position of the House of Lords and the hereditary principle. They form a most interesting contrast:—

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH, Jan. 3.

It is the duty of Conservative clubs, said Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, to show "the Socialists and Secularists" that "in hereditary rank or hereditary legislation there is a kind of necessity for noble thoughts and noble deeds."

SIR E. CLARKE, Jan. 6.

If young peers took to outraging the conscience of the people by getting up prize-fights on a Sunday evening in the streets of London, they were striking a great blow at the hereditary peerage of England.

Will the President of the Board of Trade condemn the Solicitor-General as a Secularist and a Socialist, we wonder, for thus daring to set up against the aristocratic doctrine of "noble is as is nobie born" the democratic doctrine of "noble is as noble does?"

But Sir Edward Clarke was not content with impugning the spotlessness of the peers. From disreputable lords he went on to disabled bishops—men "too old and too ill to perform their duties," who nevertheless "cling with tremulous hands to emoluments they did not earn and to dignities they no longer supported." Name, Sir Edward, name! But what a pity it is that the Solicitor-General should not be one of us. His instincts, it is clear, are all democratic. It is only his functional opinions, which he puts on with his wig, that are Tory.

Lord Dunraven proclaimed himself once more yesterday—not only on the Eight Hours question but in Irish matters also—a faithful follower of Lord Randolph Churchill. It will be remembered that Lord Randolph, in the speech of very faint praise with which he damned the Government's last Irish Land Bill, suggested to his ex-colleagues that they should defend it on the housemaid's ground, namely, that it was "only a little one." Yesterday Lord Dunraven made the same point in view of the Government's next Land Bill. He said:—

He trusted that the scheme which was to be brought forward would not be of large dimensions, for he did not think a very large demand on British credit was justifiable, except for the purpose of securing safety, in granting a scheme of local self-government.

That is what all the Tories-cum-Unionists thought in 1886. But Lord Dunraven should have been taught by the history of the Coercion Act that the digestion of his party is equal to any quantity of swallowed pledges.

In contrast to the remarkable utterance of Professor Murray on the O'Shea case which we cited the other day, here is what the London correspondent of the *Western Mail* says on the same subject:—

I suppose my morality must be below the standard of the present age, but I really cannot see what there is in the story to make such a fuss about, or why the followers and admirers of Mr. Parnell should think it necessary to pass ridiculous resolutions before the trial, affirming that the charge against him must be unfounded, as if, even supposing it were true, his guilt would disqualify him from being a great political leader. If the charge were proved that he had been carrying on an intrigue with Mrs. O'Shea for the last three years, those are the very years in which he has rendered inestimable services to his party. His record of public work will remain unaffected by any reproach cast upon his private conduct, and an attempt to drive him out of the leadership of his party because he had yielded to temptation in a matter entirely unconnected with politics would deserve to fail.

The writer of this "London letter" is understood to be Mr. J. M. Maclean, Tory M.P. for Oldham. Mr. Parnell, if he is wise, will not value these Tory whitewashings any more than the perfunctory whitewashings by Liberal associations. The one are no more disinterested than the other.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A BILL AGAINST ORGAN-GRINDING.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of the petitioners of last year from this district to the Home Office, Mr. Lawson, M.P., has been again addressed, asking him to introduce a bill to give objectors more power to repress the nuisance of organ-grinding. We found organ grinding abolished in Paris, and it is now reported from New York that all street music is now prohibited there. Let us follow these good examples as soon as possible. Pray give the favour of publicity to these lines, and your powerful support to this object, as you kindly did on a former occasion, and oblige the public and yours truly,

78, *Albert-street, Jan.* 4. B. M. SMITH.

"MILL, TENNYSON, AND BROWNING."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

Sir,—Mr. Oscar Browning's letter with the above heading, in your issue of January 3, is conclusive evidence that the "Pauline" incident really occurred. But I think his memory must have deceived him in connecting that incident with Mr. W. J. Fox's *Monthly Repository*. It is true that J. S. Mill frequently wrote in that periodical; but he certainly did not write the long review of Tennyson's early poems, which appeared in the *Repository* of January, 1833, and was from the pen of the Editor, Mr. Fox. Further, so far from dismissing Browning's "Pauline" as "balderdash," Mr. Fox, in the *Repository* of April, 1833, wrote a full and most appreciative review of the poem, extending over ten pages, and containing many fine extracts. (I have unfortunately mislaid my copy of the article, or I would quote some of it.) This was followed by an equally long and appreciative review of Browning's "Paracelsus" in the *Repository* of November, 1835, and to the *Repository* of January, 1836, Mr. Browning contributed two of his minor poems, "Porphyria's Lover" and "Johannes Agricola." However many critics slighted or despised the early productions of Robert Browning, that blindness cannot be justly laid to the charge of Mr. W. J. Fox or the *Monthly Repository*. The previous form of this curious incident, given by an anonymous friend of Browning's in your issue of December 31, throws its date some years later, and attributes it to "the then *National Review*," which is supposed to have thus snubbed Browning's "Bells and Pomegranates." But that series of poems began to appear in 1841, and was certainly completed before 1850, while the old *National Review* (a very able quarterly) only started in July, 1855. Evidently we have not got the correct story yet. If any of your readers should be sufficiently intimate with Lord Tennyson to inquire of him in what periodical his early poems were reviewed by J. S. Mill, we may yet unearth the Philistine editor.—I am, &c.,

S. D. COLLET.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I think Mr. Oscar Browning's memory must be at fault regarding what Mr. Browning told him twenty years ago. At all events, the facts are these, and Mr. Browning's recollection of them, two or three years ago, was exact:—Three reviews or notices (and no more, I believe) of "Pauline" appeared about the time of its publication in 1833. One in the *Athenæum* (written, it is thought, by Allan Cunningham and certainly not by H. F. Chorley), which was favourable, on the whole, for it began thus:—"There is not a little poetry in this very little book." Another in the *Monthly Repository* for August, 1833, written by W. J. Fox, then the editor—*very* favourable. The review of Tennyson's volume of 1833 appeared in the same volume. The third was in *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine* for August, 1833, and ran thus:—"Besides the above poems, which are of recent publication, we have "Pauline: a Fragment of a Confession; a piece of pure bewilderment." It was in *Tait* that John Stuart Mill wished to review the poem, and could not because the editor would not put on the fool's cap,

January 4. C.

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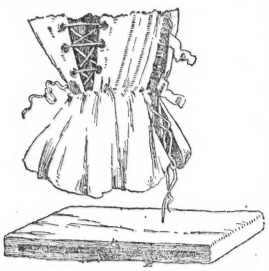
A VISIT TO THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

DULL and sombre was the morning as I gazed down (writes a representative) upon the dreary river from a snug little office at her Majesty's "Customs." And it was with pleasure I turned from the chill misery of the outer world to the bright fire and the warm comfort within. My friend, before taking me the round of the great labyrinth of bricks and mortar wherein is transacted all the "Customs" duty of the nation, called my attention to a relic of the Spanish Armada, in the shape of a treasure-chest which had been discovered some years ago off the Irish coast, and of which the bright steel and very elaborate lock-work was as perfect as though it had been made last week instead of having been buried in the ocean for 300 years. Our first stoppage in our round of inspection was at the "Long" room, an enormous apartment, where are revised the papers of every ship that enters or leaves the Port of London, and where is annually received twenty millions of pounds, over one-fifth of the whole revenue.

"Now," said my friend, "we will go downstairs to the Queen's warehouse, where she and the Prince of Wales keep a great quantity of their wine." Here there is an all-pervading smell of snuff, which I was told arose from the fact that, owing to the decline in the sale of that article and the waste in tobacco manufacture, a great quantity is returned to the Crown, and is then conveyed to the deep sea and there sunk, hundreds of tons of it. Passing a little further down this dark and dingy cellar, in which, however, was concealed enormous wealth, I came to a vast collection of books by every known author — Dickens, Thackeray, Rider Haggard; elaborate musical productions, artistic works of every kind, and all these were being industriously torn up and thrown away. "But why this hideous waste?" I wonderingly



A CORSET, POCKET ALL ROUND.—A PIECE OF FLOORING WITH TOBACCO.

inquired. "What on earth is there illegal here?" and I took up a pretty edition of Thackeray's "Virginians," and looked at the title-page, upon which was some writing in a bold masculine hand, and dated from some far town in America, "To Nellie, from Jim, and all love for her birthday." "Ah, those are violations of the law of copyright. Yes, that inscription is very touching, doubtless, but I am afraid," said my friend, "that Nellie will never see that book. We often get plaintive letters, begging that these presents should be sent on, but we are obliged sternly to refuse."

The next moment I held some notepaper in my hand and inquired, "Well, what is the matter with this, it surely is all right?" "—No, it has a false English water-mark on it, and it was made in Germany; Hamburg is a dreadful offender in that respect. Pears' soap is imitated there; we stop large quantities of it. Sham champagne, the nastiest stuff you can imagine. Here are French marked cottons, but all made in Germany, good enough I dare say, but all trying to evade the "Merchandise Marks Act." A number of men were busy tearing labels off some thousands of cigar boxes in front of them, and it was explained to me that these boxes with a Spanish label upon them, and purporting to contain the best Havanas, were yet filled only with German rubbish made in Hamburg.

The manner in which large quantities of immensely powerful spirits can be conveyed surreptitiously into the country became manifest to me when I looked at some enormous cans with a small cone inside which used to be filled with olive oil, whilst the rest of the can contained nothing but brandy, For a long time these cans evaded the sharp eye of the revenue officer, till at last the clever trick was discovered. In another corner I was shown boxes containing millions of needles, perfectly good, but all bearing a false mark. In answer to a question I was told that as a rule the trades of all kinds strongly approve of the "Merchandise Marks Act," which was chiefly drawn up under the direction of the gentleman who was acting as my guide.

1 LB. 6 OZ. OF TOBACCO IN BOOK.

Going upstairs again we came to perhaps the most interesting part of the whole tour—the Smuggling Museum. "There, sir," said the little showman, a dry, witty person, who would make his fortune upon the stage, as he took down a harmless-looking book, and put it under his arm, "there ain't much the matter with that, is there?" I replied that it looked innocent enough in all conscience, for indeed, if the truth must be spoken, it was to all appearance an ordinary Bible. "Well, sir, that was carried by a gent got up as a Methody preacher. One day he was caught with this under his arm, and now look, sir." I did, and lo! it was quite hollow, and filled, crammed with tobacco. A loaf of bread was then placed in my hands. "'Ave a slice, sir?" asked the small man. I shook my head—it looked rather too stale. Carefully removing the top of it, my cicerone showed me that it was hollowed most carefully out and that it was full of the best cigars. I kicked my foot against a log of wood that was lying at my feet, and I rather wondered that so shabby an article should be lying about in a handsome Government office. "There you are, sir, exactly what them revenue officers kept a doin' of aboard o' some o' the ships they was on. One day they diskivers the ordinary-lookin' bit o' wood lyin' careless like about the deck was bokey, and they looks inside and finds it full o' cut cavendish. But it was a clever dodge, 'cos no one would think it was anything else but a mere innocent bit o' timber." Another book had a bottle of brandy carefully and skilfully fixed inside of it. A hollow concertina was probably a source of discord between its owner and the discoverers of the improper use to which it had been put. For instead of being full of the very spirit of harmony, it was found to have been a receptacle for very different kinds of spirits indeed. Then there was a shirt, crammed with pockets, and in which had been stored away no less than 150 watches. The man who wore this was unable to sit or lie in it, and throughout the whole voyage, presumably a short one, he had to stand the whole time; but on one occasion, having been delayed in a fog, and being thus compelled to remain upon his feet for seventy long, weary hours, he fainted dead away when land was reached, and so fell into the clutches of the lynx eyed officers of the Revenue. A bit of coal seemed to be, like Cæsar's wife, absolutely above suspicion, but tossed carelessly as it was upon the top of a whole ton of Welsh steam coal, it was yet discovered to have been but an ingenuinous sham and hollowed out, and full of cigars and tobacco.

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TWO VOLUMES OF IDYLLS.*

WE can better realize how great has been the revival of nature-worship in the present century if we remember that scarcely more than a hundred years have passed since Johnson declined Boswell's offer to take a country walk on what seemed to him the unanswerable plea that the face of nature is dull, uniform, and monotonous. "Sir," said the urban philosopher, "one green field is like another green field; I like to look at men"—a misapprehension of the lessons to be learnt from hedgerow and woodside which sounds strange to those who are acquainted with the writings of Richard Jefferies and the modern "poet-naturalist" school. The latest addition to the literature of outdoor life is Mr. Knight's "Idylls of the Field," a volume which, like its predecessor, "By Leafy Ways," consists of short essays reprinted from the *Daily News* and forming the record of a year's observation. The "field," however, is now somewhat enlarged in scope and subject, and includes not only the ordinary countryside pictures, with careful studies of our common inland fauna and flora, but also some more distant sketches of sea and mountain districts, drawn from Lundy Island, Cheddar, Snowdon, and the Bavarian highlands. We do not look to these "Idylls of the Field" for those strong distinctive traits of passion and pathos which characterize Jefferies's more imaginative writings; but, taken for what they profess to be—short, simple, idyllic essays on nature and natural history—they form a charming and tasteful little book. Mr. Knight has the faculty of free and graceful expression, and writes with a real and sympathetic knowledge of the haunts and habits of the wild creatures he describes; the illustrations, moreover, by Mr. E. T. Compton, are delicate and suggestive, and form a most agreeable accompaniment to the text.

Mr. Emerson's "English Idyls" will scarcely serve to increase his fame as a delineator of East Anglian life. He makes it evident, indeed, that he possesses a thorough familiarity with the scenery and society of the district of which he writes, but he has failed in this volume to employ his knowledge to a very gratifying result. It was his object, so we learn from the preface, to combine scientific accuracy with artistic taste, for "though the scientific basis is necessarily subordinated to the artistic superstructure, still the author would consider it a serious defect were the scientific facts in any way wrong." He seems not to have apprehended the possibility of the artistic superstructure being itself the faulty portion of his work; yet this is precisely what has happened, his materials, which are sound enough, being put together in a most flimsy and affected manner. "Ellen," for instance, the idyll to which he assigns the place of honour in his volume, is written in an absurdly inflated and pretentious tone, which might pass as a parody on the worst conceits of the Euphuists. Word-painting, like all other arts, has its proper times and uses, but we doubt whether it has ever been less appropriately employed than in Mr. Emerson's description of a fisher-maiden putting a worm on the hook—a process on which the poet or artist should scarcely care to dwell: "As she fenced with the lively bait that 'twixt her fingers slipt, like silvery eels through the narrow meshes of a net, her hair sable as the coot's wing—loosely enkerchiefed—waved wantonly 'gainst her temples. . . While striving with the dew-worm her eyes, bright and humid, were in turn like skies in April; but when the bait was thrid and dangled in the stream she silent sat, and so gently flowed the tide along that she could hear the drowsy moths flutter as they sipped the nectar from the fragrant lychnis cups, and the tardy warblers piping in their swaying nests." There is too much of this sort of thing in the volume. Mr. Emerson has made the fatal mistake of supposing that such elaborate bombast, full of tropes and inversions, is more "idyllic" than a simple and unembellished narration of facts.

* "Idylls of the Field." By Francis A. Knight. Illustrated by E. T. Compton (Elliot Stock. 1889.)
"English Idyls." By P. H. Emerson. (Sampson Low. 1889.)

THE RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

THE announcements of the railway dividends for the half-year will begin in a few days, and meanwhile the market is forming estimates of what they are likely to be. Every one is looking for a big addition to the Brighton deferred, but otherwise a halt to one per cent. is about all that is expected, for although the augmented traffics would give a much larger return to the shareholders on the old basis of expenditure, there has to be deducted the greater cost of fuel, labour, and material. As something like 40 per cent. more is now being paid for coal than under the contracts of the past few years, and the great lines spent from £200,000 to £250,000 per annum under the old rates, it is inevitable that a considerable part of the increased traffics will be absorbed in working expenses. The companies making weekly returns show an aggregate increase of £2,000,000 on the half-year, and when the corrected traffics are made out the advance will be found to be still greater. Taking the two half-years together the increase will not be much under £4,000,000, which is a substantial proof of trade prosperity. The increased dividends, it need hardly be said, have been fully discounted. All classes of railway stocks are higher now than they were a year ago. Debentures are 2 to 3 above the level of January, 1889; preference from 3 to 7; while ordinary stocks, which have been much more erratic, are in some cases 20 and 30 points higher.

Irish railways have shared in the increased prosperity of the United Kingdom. With two exceptions they return increased traffics, and this in spite of the fact that there has been a considerable decline in the exports of live stock.

BARON DE WORMS AND CHEAP SUGAR.

BARON DE WORMS, writing from Nice the other day, remarked with respect to a statement made by Mr. Stevenson, M.P., that "he is absolutely unacquainted with the subject on which he proposes to instruct the electors of Eye"—that is, the sugar bounties. Now, accomplished facts have been so notoriously against the Baron that he is hardly in a position to lecture his fellow-members on their ignorance, or the misleading and incorrect character of their statements. In a way, the Baron knows all about the sugar bounties, but, as the *Produce Markets Review* points out, his views are more or less antagonistic to those of his supporters. "For instance, the British colonists call for an abolition of bounties because the present prices are asserted to be ruinous to them, but the Baron advocates the same measure because it will render sugar cheaper still. The West Indies will hardly thank him for such a result, especially as we learn by the last mail that the Barbados Sugar Estates Company has just declared a dividend of 27 per cent. As to the recent rise, Baron De Worms does not seem to realize how large a proportion of the temporary success of the attempted 'corner' was due to his own speech, announcing an approaching sugar famine, which, by the time it was to have arrived, turned out to be a perfect glut of sugar. He has also found no kind friend to tell him that the result of the operation was bankruptcy to the large speculators he speaks of months before the new crop came to market, and that we now have, and are likely to have, exceedingly low prices for some time to come. The Baron's desire to procure cheap sugar for the masses will thus be gratified without recourse to the bill that was to give us that blessing." As has been shown times without number, so far from thousands of workmen having been thrown out of employment, more are employed now in refining in England than at any time, not to speak of the additional thousands engaged in allied trades in consequence of cheap sugar. The Baron's letter is all the less opportune, seeing that there are just now signs of a development of sugar refining at the East-end.

The Rothschild syndicate, which carried through the last Russian Conversion Loan of 48 millions sterling, realized for the partners a profit of 2.05 per cent., or in round figures a million sterling.

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MRS. GLADSTONE'S BIRTHDAY.

Mrs. Gladstone celebrated her seventy-eighth birthday at Hawarden Castle yesterday, and received a large number of congratulations. To-day is the thirty-sixth anniversary of the birth of Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., the fourth and youngest son of the ex-Prime Minister. Lord Rosebery, Sir Charles and Miss Tennant, and Miss Kendal are guests at the Castle.

THE INDIAN AND AUSTRALIAN POSTAL SERVICE.

A long-desired change in the postal service between this country, India, and Australia is at last arranged by means of mutual concessions by all the parties concerned, including the public. Hitherto the mails have always left Adelaide, and the mails have left Adelaide homewards on Mondays, but the Australians have always disliked this, although their wish for alteration has hitherto been frustrated on account of the difficulty caused by the requisite connection with the service from China and India. It has now, however, been arranged that the mails shall leave Adelaide on Wednesday throughout the year, the Indian mails being despatched from Bombay every Saturday during the fair season and every Friday during the south west monsoon. Under this plan the whole of the mails from the east will be due in London not later than Wednesday at any time during the year, while during the fair season they will be due a day earlier.

BANQUETED AT THE AGE OF 106.

A large and representative gathering of the citizens of Elgin, under the presidency of Lord Provost Black, last night entertained Peter Laing, a centenarian, to a banquet on the occasion of his celebrating his 106th birthday. Telegrams were read from London congratulating Laing on the event. In giving the toast of his health, allusion was made to the centenarian having the other day, in letting a house of which he was the proprietor, made special provision that at the end of seven years he would himself occupy the premises. Peter, after suitably acknowledging the toast, was presented with several handsome gifts, and in the course of the evening he related many interesting reminiscences of olden days and sang several songs.

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FOURTH EDITION.

OUR TROUBLE WITH PORTUGAL.

"AN IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE" THREATENED.

A further Note by Lord Salisbury respecting Major Serpa Pinto's campaign (telegraphs the Lisbon correspondent of the *Times*) was delivered there this morning. Although the exact contents of the Note are unknown, I think I am not far wrong in stating that it is of a commintatory nature, threatening an immediate diplomatic rupture and even going beyond this unless Portugal gives, without evasion or equivocation of any kind, an undertaking to give satisfaction for Major Serpa Pinto's attack on the Mako'olo, and for his ignoring of, if not outrage upon, the British flag in the district of the Shiré. A Cabinet Council was held this afternoon. The result is unknown to night, but Senhor Barros Gomes has been charged to send an immediate reply to England. Telegrams and newspapers from Berlin announce that a British fleet will arrive in the Tagus on the 12th inst. I may say at once that I have good reason to believe that this statement is not correct, or at least premature.

Portuguese official circles deny that Major Serpa Pinto has created further difficulties. It is alleged that not only is Ma or Serpa Pinto himself ill at Moambique, but the bulk of his forces have retired from the Shiré. I am able to state that Lord Salisbury's reply to Senhor Barros Gomes' long despatch, which was delivered here a few days ago, traverses all the latter's arguments and declarations; in one word, it insists on the maintenance of the sovereign rights of England over all territories previously announced as included in the British sphere of influence. In fact, Lord Salisbury's reply may be said to ignore somewhat cavalierly the Portuguese pretensions.

DESTRUCTION OF A BRUSSELS THEATRE BY FIRE.

A RUSH FROM THE GRAND HOTEL CENTRAL.

A Central News telegram from Brussels this morning, despatched at five o'clock, says:—The well-known Théâtre de la Bourse has been laid in ashes this morning. A fire broke out there at half-past three o'clock, and has raged so fiercely that at the present time the theatre is involved in ruin, and the surrounding buildings are menaced with destruction.

The theatre was built in 1884 in the Moorish style. It was contiguous on three of its sides to a large block of houses, many of which were in imminent peril of taking fire. The nearest building is the Grand Hotel Central. The visitors and servants in the majority of cases rushed into the street with scarcely any clothing on, despite the smallness of the hour there are many onlookers at the fire. Most of them have taken up a position on the steps of the Palais de la Bourse. So far the fire has resulted in no loss of life, but a fireman has been injured.

A Reuter's telegram says that only the four walls of the building remain standing.

A later telegram by Reuter says: The firemen have succeeded in saving the Hôtel Central and the other buildings adjoining the theatre. Only one corner of the hotel was injured by the flames. The fire has been completely localised, and there is no further danger of its spreading.

CRITICAL CONDITION OF THE EMPRESS AUGUSTA.

It was announced at Berlin at eight o'clock this morning that the strength of the Empress Augusta is decreasing in a manner causing anxiety. At three o'clock this morning, after her Majesty had enjoyed some intervals of sleep, respiration was somewhat seriously impeded in consequence of the difficulty of expectoration, causing fresh uneasiness to the physicians.

A bulletin concerning the condition of the Empress, issued at nine o'clock this morning, states that the difficulty of respiration is increasing, and that her Majesty's strength continues to give way. The Emperor and Empress, and the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden have been with the Imperial patient since half-past five this morning.—*Reuter.*

WRECK OF A BRITISH YACHT.

SUPPOSED LOSS OF FOURTEEN LIVES.

A telegram received at Madrid from Cadiz announces that an English yacht named the *Imbert (? Inva)* bound from Portsmouth to Gibraltar, was wrecked on the Aceiteras Rocks on the night of the 3rd inst. The vessel sank within a few minutes after she struck, and it is feared that all on board perished, with the exception of four men. Eight of the crew jumped into the lifeboat, which, however, capsized, all the occupants being drowned. The four survivors saved themselves in another boat. Up to the present ten bodies have been recovered. The Governor of the province of Cadiz has directed that all aid possible be given to the shipwrecked men.

The *Inva* (formerly the *Argo*) is a steam yacht of 220 tons, and belongs to Mr. Pascoe Du Pre Grenfell, of Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, who purchased her from Count Stranard in August last. She was refitted at Cosport last autumn, and left the harbour on the 2nd ult. for the Mediterranean, where her owner had arranged to join her. She carried a crew of eighteen all told, most of whom belong to Gosport.

LORD SALISBURY.

The Marquis of Salisbury continues to make satisfactory progress towards recovery, but his medical advisers still insist on the necessity of avoiding fatigue and exposure.

A BRIDGE SEVEN MILES LONG.

A railroad bridge is projected from Jersey City to New York—seven miles long.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

THE REPRESENTATION OF NORTH TYRONE.

The Londonderry correspondent of the *Dublin Express* says there is no truth in the report that a meeting will be held to-day to select a successor to Lord Ernest Hamilton in the representation of North Tyrone. His lordship will not retire until the end of the present Parliament. The seat would not be safe at the present time, but it will be safe next year.

A GOLDEN EAGLE SHOT.

Yesterday after the storm Lord Cloncarty's gamekeepers observed an eagle hovering over the lake at Ballina-loe, and one of them shot the bird. It proved to be a splendid golden eagle, measuring from point to bill three feet, and from tip to tip seven feet.

MR. JEFF. DAVIS'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

Mrs. Davis intends completing her husband's memoirs immediately.—*Dalziel's Cable Agency.*

EXECUTION THIS MORNING.—SHOCKING SCENE.

Charles Higginbottom, the Birmingham murderer, was executed at Warwick gaol this morning. Prisoner had attempted suicide, and when the body fell blood flowed in torrents from the neck. Berry was the executioner.

Baroness Roque, in contradicting a report recently published describing her visit to Woking Prison, says she found her daughter Mrs. Maybrick looking very ill, and so much altered as to be scarcely recognizable.

THE PROGRESS OF THE INFLUENZA.

Inquiries made yesterday confirmed the rumours as to the spread of the influenza in London since Sunday. It is suggested on some hands that it is attributable to the present mild state of the weather.

IN WEST AND NORTH-WEST LONDON.

The epidemic is spreading in the west and north-west of London. Several well-known clergymen and doctors are amongst the sufferers. At Queen's-park scores of people have been attacked. At the Harrow-road and Paddington police-stations more than fifty men and officers are rendered unfit for duty from the same cause. At Hammersmith police-station fully two-thirds of the constables have been attacked by the complaint and are completely incapacitated from fulfilling their duties. At Barnum's show twelve cases are reported to have broken out. Mr. Plowden, the junior magistrate of the West London police-court, was unable to take his seat on the bench in consequence of an attack of influenza.

THE SOUTH AND EAST LONDON.

The epidemic is also spreading with great rapidity south of the Thames, and amongst the victims may be mentioned doctors, licensed victuallers' postmen, policemen, omnibus and tramcar drivers and conductors, and numerous other persons who are exposed to the weather. Many of the inmates of the infirmary in Parish-street, Bermondsey, are suffering from the effects of influenza. Dr. Wightwick stated yesterday that he had attended over 100 cases during the past ten days in the Horsleydown and Bermondsey districts. Dr. Marshall, medical officer to St. Olave's Union, Southwark, has had over fifty cases of influenza to deal with during the past few days, some of the patients being policemen and postmen. At Rotherhithe Dr. Gwynne yesterday stated that he knew of several doctors who were suffering from influenza in that and other South London districts. The disease is reported to have broken out at the Borough police-office, and several men have had to go on the sick list in consequence. In Woolwich Arsenal in one department alone, the Royal Laboratory, 500 men are on the sick list.

In the East sub-division of the metropolitan police there are a number of men, in excess of the average, on the sick list. At Hoston station, G Division, an inspector, three sergeants, and twenty-five constables are sick.

WELL-KNOWN SUFFERERS.

Mr. Chaplin is still confined to his room, but is better. The Earl of Sefton, who was one of the earliest sufferers, is convalescent. A son-what severe form of influenza having broken out in Witham, Essex, and neighbourhood, Lord Rayleigh, of Terling Place, was seized quite suddenly on Saturday. At the meeting of the Warwickshire Joint Committee yesterday, the Earl of Aylesford and a number of other members were reported to be on the sick list with the new disease. The Recorder of Bristol, Mr. Charles G. Prideaux, has telegraphed that a violent attack of influenza in that town has prevented his undertaking the journey to Bristol to preside at the quarter sessions.

AT THE HOSPITALS.

Great inconvenience is being experienced at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, in consequence of a violent epidemic of influenza which has broken out among the medical and nursing staff. So many of the nurses have had to give up their work for the present that it has been found necessary to close one of the wards of the hospital, there not being sufficient attendants. The number of out-patients treated for the disease is about thirty daily, and they are principally men. At nearly all the hospitals there has been a gr at increase, not only of in-patients, but also of out-patients. Of these latter most were found to be suffering from nothing more than a severe cold, but many were distinctly affected with influenza. Many of the nurses and staff of these institutions are also suffering.

HOW THE PATIENTS ARE CURED AT GUY'S.

At Guy's, as at the Westminster Hospital, quinine and anti-pyrine are the principal remedies used, and Dr. Fripp says that, owing to the high state of temperature into which they are thrown, the patients scarcely partake of any food, while their only beverage is soda and milk. Dr. Fripp mentioned that the temperature in some cases has reached 104 deg., while in one case it amounted to 106 deg. In reference to the outbreak of rash among the affected, Dr. Fripp said: "There has been a great deal of discussion among the learned societies of France as to whether this rash was an epidemic of 'dandy fever,' or whether it was simply a symptom of influenza. The present appearance, of course, establishes the truth of the latter suggestion." Neither pneumonia nor bronchitis has been a feature of the in tensic symptoms at Guy's, nor has there been very much diarrhœa. Dr. Fripp states that anti-pyrine is found to act like a charm in cases where the pen alsic symptoms are very pronounced, but expresses the opinion that that medicine very rarely shortens the duration of the influenza itself. He also adds that in most of the cases that have come under his notice the attack has lasted but a short time.

AMONG THE POST OFFICE CLERKS.

At the General Post Office some figures supplied yesterday afternoon show the number of sick employés to have been increased by 150, thus bringing up the total to 1,300 in the postal department alone, exclusively of the Central Telegraph Office and the Savings Bank Department. The co.tors do not certify that all the absentees are afflicted with influenza; many present ordinary catarrhal symptoms. The patients from the Central Tele.raph Office showed an increase of 8 or 9 per cent. yesterday, and they include those engaged at the Stock Exchange, the office at the Commercial Sale Rooms and Moorgate-street-buildings.

IN THE PROVINCES AND IRELAND.

It is reported that the disease is gradually spreading all over Leicestershire. Many cases of a mild type have been noted at Leicester; the same may be said of Warwickshire. Several severe cases of the influenza are under medical treatment in Worcester. Among places which seem to be attacked are Liverpool, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, the villages of Grays and Thurrock, in Essex, Langloft, near Driffield (where one death is reported), and the barracks at Carlow.

There can be no doubt that the influenza has found its way into Ireland. In Dublin a large number of hands in commercial establishments have been, within the last three days, prostrated by the malady, which in some instances has assumed a severe though apparently not a dangerous form. Thirty four men of the Guards were suffering from it on Sunday, and the number increased yesterday. In Belfast the reports are similar. A Russian vessel is stated to have entered the port with several cases on board.

SIX TELEGRAPH OFFICES SHUT IN AMSTERDAM.

The influenza continues to spread everywhere. In the Hague and other towns many schools, offices, and shops are shut up. Six telegraph offices have been closed in Amsterdam. Commerce and traffic generally are accordingly greatly impeded throughout the country. The ex-Queen Isabella and the Archduke and Archduchess Reynier are recovering from the influenza. The disease attacked the younger sister of the King last night. During the week between the 15th and 21st of December ten deaths from influenza itself occurred in Berlin. In the week following, the mortality rose to 1,047. Since then there has been a considerable abatement, and work has now begun again in all the schools.

LATEST REPORTS.

Additional reports received this morning regar ding the prevalence of influenza in the home counties and provinces generally show that its effects are very widespread. The epidemic has visited Bolton among other places, and the doctors there report several cases, the symptoms of which are not traceable to any ordinary form of malady present at this time of the year. From the district of Hanwell and Southall it is reported that there are two hundred cases under treatment, including a local physician and a number of inmates of St. Mary's Orphanage, North Hyde. At Hounslow ever one hundred cases are reported, including two of the principal doctors in the place. The first symptoms were only noticed late last Tuesday. A special ward has been opened at Hounslow Barracks for the accommodation of patients among the troops. Influenza is very prevalent in Twickenham.

It is reported that 160 boys belonging to the training ships *Exmouth* and *Shaftesbury*, lying in the Thames off the town of Grays, are suffering from influenza. In Grays and Thurrocks itself some of the medical practitioners are affected and the epidemic is spreading among railway, dock, and postal staffs.

It is reported from Waltham Abbey that many of the employés in the Royal Gunpowder Factory in that town and in other factories there and in the immediate neighbourhood are suffering from Russian influenza. One death which has just occurred is attributed to the disease. Several persons in the towns of Waltham and Cheshunt are also ill.

From Rochester and Strood numerous cases are reported, some of them being of a serious nature. The people attacked are mostly or prominent position.

The epidemic is beginning to affect a great many people in Dover. Hitherto the town has been comparatively free of the malady, but a great many cases have broken out during the last three day. A number of the French Jesuit scholars, from the Jesuit College at Canterbury, have passed through Dover on their way home to escape the epidemic.

A number of the employés of Cuinness's Brewery are on the sick list from influenza. About eighty of the Dublin police are also affected. The first case admitted to the hospital was a policeman who was taken in last night. He became suddenly ill in the street.

Dr. Pasteur, who at one moment was dangerously ill with influenza, is recovering.

"PELICAN" PEERS AND BROKEN-DOWN BISHOPS.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL'S WARNING.

Speaking at Plymouth last night, Sir Edward Clarke said:—If attacks were made upon the Church and the House of Lords, it would not be because of any objection to the principles those bodies represented, but because of practices which offended the judgment and outraged the conscience of the people themselves. The true defenders of the House of Lords and the Church should show be the peers, the bishops, and the clergy themselves. (Hear, hear.) If the peers generally imitated the members of that House in the neighbourhood of Plymouth in their devotion to the public service, there would be no fear of the permanence of the House of Lords (cheers); but if young peers took to outraging the conscience of the people by getting up prize-fights on a Sunday evening in the streets of London, they were striking a greater blow at the hereditary peerage of England than could be counteracted by any amount of public speaking or even by the most conspicuous example of public virtue. (Cheers.) If bishops too old and too infirm to perform their duties were seen clinging with tremulous hands to emoluments they did not earn and to dignities they no longer supported, and if the clergy were found neglecting the interests of their people, giving themselves to other occupations and enjoyments, leaving the real wants of the people unattended, or, still worse, quarrelling over things which were non-essential, but about which strong feeling and passion were excited, it was by such things that the Established Church would be weakened in every part of the country; because it was useless defending an institution by argument if there was a conscientious feeling in the minds of the people that those who belonged to that institution were not doing their duty. (Cheers.)

THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY CO. AND THEIR MEN.

The secretary of the North Eastern Company has sent to Mr. Hudson, the local secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, at Darlington, a note enclosing a minute of the North Eastern board of directors upon the subject of the recent interviews which representatives of the men have had with the board of the company. The minute is as follows:—"Since the directors received the deputation of workmen at Newcastle the subjects then discussed had received their constant attention, and the heads of departments had dealt very liberally, as instructed, with the claims then made, by advances of wages and concessions as to hours of labour and of overtime. The directors have to day listened carefully to the arguments adduced by the deputation, and reiterate that the conditions of railway service are of such a varied character that it is impossible to make the hours of service uniform in every grade. They are not prepared to accept the programme put before them, and they must adhere to their former resolution—that questions of the wages and terms of service of different ranks must be dealt with by the heads of the various departments concerned. The question of Sunday labour has already received, and will continue to receive attention, with a desire to reduce it as far as possible."

PARIS MOTHERS-IN-LAW TO M. SARDOU.

Those who have seen Sardou's successful play, "La Belle-Maman" (The Mother-in-Law), will recollect that the dramatist takes the somewhat unusual course of making his elderly heroine entirely attractive. Apropos of this, a hundred Parisian mothers in law of the *beau monde* some time ago sent Sardou an address setting forth their grateful appreciation of the justice he has in his "Belle-Maman" done them as a class.

MUNIFICENT GIFT BY MR. G. F. WATTS, R.A.

The Leicester Art Gallery Committee, in a report which is to be presented to the town council this evening announce that Mr. G. F. Watts, R.A., has, in accordance with a promise he made some little time ago, presented to the corporation his magnificent picture entitled "Orlando Pursuing the Fata Morgana." The subject of this noble work, writes Mr. Watts, "is taken from the Italian poet Boiardo, and represents Organt in the Fata Morgana, who can be seen only by those who can be taken by the forelock once passed, pursuit is vain." Mr. Watts adds, "My reasons for presenting it are desire to help in forming the collection of pictures which I believe the town contemplates making, as I am convinced art is a great humanising factor, and I greatly desire to lend what aid I may in aid of general progress. On this occasion I give one of my best pictures in recognition of the services your townsman, Mr. John M. Cook, is rendering, especially in Egypt, to the nation, making its name respected by admirable administration and honourable dealing." The picture has been on view at the exhibition of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, but it is to be forwarded to Leicester as soon as possible.

SHORTER HOURS FOR THE LONDON ROAD CAR MEN.

The London Road Car Company received a deputation yesterday afternoon from the London and Counties Omnibus and Tramway Employés Union, headed by Mr. T. Cuthers, and they undertook to consider a scheme for shortening the hours of labour and to grant the concessions promised to their men.

LAST YEAR'S EMIGRATION RETURNS

The emigration returns for the year have just been issued by Mr. Giffen from the Board of Trade. Nearly 329,000 left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe last year, the Irish and Scotch contributing a large proportion to population; by far the greatest number to these returns. About 65,000 emigrants were of Irish nationality. Though England has more than five times the population, she has only a little more than two and a half times the number of emigrants, the exact number being 104,225. The numbers have fallen back in both cases, however, since the year 1887, the total of Irish origin is 25,456, as compared with 29,282 last year. The numbers going to the United States, British North America, and Australia are all lower than in the previous year; but to "other places" the emigration has increased from nearly eighteen thousand to about twenty-eight and a half thousand.

DEATH OF COUNTESS FLEURY.

The death is announced of Countess Fleury, widow of the General who aided Napoleon III. in his coup d'état. Mdme. Fleury was one of the brilliant women of the Empire. She and her husband never counted the money that they spent; it was considered as being invested for the good of the Empire, and all debts contracted were paid by the Empire. When a war with Prussia was being negotiated General Count Fleury was sent to St. Petersburg as Ambassador, with instructions to make friends on all sides, and no enemies. The Ambassador and his wife made a conquest of the Czar and his family, but never lost long enough there to bring about an *entente* with France. The Imperial Family of Russia have telegraphed condolences to the sons of the late Countess.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

The thunderstorm which on Sunday night swept over the county Donegal resulted in two deaths. Those of the wife and daughter of a small farmer named M'Cole, residing at Tolnabratney. M'Cole's house was struck by lightning, which in its passage made a gap in the back of the house and tore out the kitchen window. The two women who were in the house were killed instantaneously, the bodies being burned, M'Cole himself and his sons were seriously injured. As already reported, two other women were killed at Killarney.

TRADE HALLS AND THE PROPOSED POLYTECHNICS.

With the object of urging that accommodation in the shape of halls for meetings should be provided in the new or projected Polytechnic Institutions for London, a deputation from the executive of the London Trades Council had an interview last evening with Mr. Anstie, Q.C., the Commissioner of the City of London Parochial Charities. While stating his inability to pledge his colleagues, Mr. Anstie expressed strong sympathy with the views laid before him. It would be perfectly possible, he said, in Polytechnic schemes to include halls for the use of trade organisations. The Trades Council should enter into negotiations with the various governing bodies; and if they were not successful, the Commissioners, who were providing endowment, might assist them.

MR. SEXTON, M.P., AND THE QUEEN.

At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation, held yesterday, Mr. Dobson moved a resolution to the effect that it was desirable some action should be taken towards having the opening ceremony of the new Science and Art Museum and National Library building performed by the Queen. An amendment proposed by Mr. T. Sexton, M.P., condemning the policy and conduct of her Majesty's Ministers in regard to Ireland, and stating that the corporation would have no control over the new museum, at the same time offering to give the Queen a personal welcome if she did open the building, was carried by 31 votes to 5.

The *Londonderry Journal* says a solicitor's clerk started on Saturday for Falcarragh with 150 ejectment notices for tenants on the Olphert estate.

Notices to Ulster tenant farmers announcing several valuable farms to be let on the estate of Mr. Hamilton Curran, county Cork, are published.

The Empress Frederick and her daughters are expected to visit England, if not immediately, soon after leaving Rome.

STANLEY'S TRIBUTE TO THE MISSIONARIES.

CHRISTIANITY A SUCCESS IN AFRICA.

Another letter from Mr. Stanley, addressed this time to Mr. Alexander L. Bruce, the son-in-law of Dr. Livingstone, is published this morning. It is dated from Ugogo, in October last, and it must have been written at about the time that Mr. Stanley reached Unyanwa, and once more came within the purview of civil ation. It gives an encouraging account of the great progress of Christianity in Central Africa, and it shows that Bishop Hannington's murderer, Mwanga, has met with his reward. The persecuted native Christians have been powerful enough, in alliance with the Mahommedans, to drive him into exile, and he has now realised the proverb about the devil in sickness by announcing himself a very pious Catholic. He had been received in his flight by the French missionaries, in noble remind of charity and goodness for the brutality with which he had driven them forth from his dominions.

What, continues Mr. Stanley, would have pleased Livingstone so much is that a body of Christians can become in twelve years so numerous and formidable as to depose the most absolute and powerful king in Africa, and hold their own against any number of combinations hostile to them. What can a man wish better for as a proof that Christianity is possible in Africa? I forgot to say that each member of the deputation of the Waganda which waited upon me possessed a Prayer book and the Gospel of Matthew printed in Kiganda, and that as soon as they retired from my presence they went to study their Prayer-books. Five of their following accompanied us for the purpose of pursuing their religious studies on the coast.

I take this powerful body of native Christians in the heart of Africa—who prefer exile for the sake of their faith to serving a monarch indifferent or hostile to their faith—as more substantial evidence of the work of Mackay than any number of imposing structures clustered together and called a mission station would be. These native Africans have endured the most deadly persecutions—the stake and the fire, the cord and the club, the sharp knife and the rifle bullet have all been tried to cause them to reject the teachings they have absorbed. Stanch in their beliefs, firm in their convictions, they have held together stoutly and resolutely, and Mackay and Ashe may point to the e with a righteous pride as the results of their labours to the good, kindly people at home who trusted in them.

I suppose you do not know Mackay personally. Well, he is a Scotchman—the toughest little fellow you could conceive. Young, too—probably thirty-two years or so, and bears the climate splendidly—even his complexion is unimpaired—but Africanised yet by any means, despite twelve years continued residence. These mission societies certainly contrive to produce extraordinary men. Apropos of Scotchmen, can you tell me why they succeed oftener than other people? Take Moffatt, Livingstone, Mackay, real Scotchmen with the burr. They stand pre-eminent above all other missionaries, no matter of what nationality. It is not because they are Scotchmen that they succeed. It is not because they are better men in any one way or the other, physically, mentally, or morally—for that we may rest assured—but it is because they have been more educated in one thing than all others. While I say this I review mentally all whom I know and have met, and I repeat the statement confidently. That one thing is duty.

THE CLEVELAND-STREET CASE.

THE CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY AGAINST A SOLICITOR.

The hearing of the charge against Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, Frederick Taylerson, his clerk, and Adolphus de Galla, an interpreter, of conspiring to defeat the ends of justie in connection with certain proceedings at 19, Cleveland-street, Fitz roy-square, was continued to day before Mr. Vaughan in the Extradition Court at Bow-street. Mr. Poland appeared for the prosecution; Mr. C. S. Gill defended Mr. Newton; Mr. St. John Wontner appeared for the other two defendants; and Mr. Minton Slater watched the case on behalf of Mr. Ernest Parke, the editor of the *North London Press*, charged with libelling Lord Euston.

Charles Ernest Thickbroom was recalled and cross-examined by Mr. Gill. He said that he had not spoken to the police since last eve ing. On December 10 he was dismissed from the Post Office, and he then went to Scotland-yard of his own accord, and informed inspector Abberline that he had been discharged. A lad Perkins accompanied him. Witness told Abberline that he wanted a situation, and was told to visit him again in a day or two. He wanted to get back to the Post Office if he could. Now and then Hanks had said that he would get on all right, and had called on him. Witness again went to Scotland Yard on the appointed day, but Abberline was busy. He saw Hanks, and told him that he was tired of being messed about, that his father was ill and unable to support him, and that he wanted something to do. Hanks did not suggest that Mr. Newton or anybody would do something for him. Two days after cards on Monday the 6th—witness and Perkins saw Abberline. They were not exactly afraid, but did not care to ask the officer to give them a fresh start. At that time he and Perkins intended in any case to go to Mr. Newton.

Who suggested to you that you could see Lord Arthur Somerset's father?—Two constables, one of them named Sladen.

Wright, continuing, said that Perkins received a letter from Sladen asking them to meet him outside his house, as they had done the previous night. He first went to Sladen's house on the same day that he was dismissed. It was soon after he had made a statement in July that he became acquainted with Sladen, and together they had walked about Piccadilly and Cleveland-street trying to identify persons. He "didn't think much of it." Prior to keeping him about for two months, and then suddenly dismissing him. Sladen said his dismissal was a dirty trick, but he thought the police were fooling him when they expressed surprise at his discharge.

Sladen said to witness "I know somebody who wanted to know when you were dismissed, and I was to tell them."

What else did Sladen say?—"I will let you know about seeing somebody. Wright did not do so—Stayed about the beat until 10-40, when another constable appeared.

A WELSH GROCERY SYNDICATE

A grocery syndicate is now in course of formation for the acquirement of the leading grocery and provision businesses in South Wales. A company has this week been formed with Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., as chairman. The formation of the company, which has a capital of £1,250,000, has caused considerable consternation in trade circles in the Principality.

It is stated that in the debate on the Address special attention will be directed to the position of affairs in Tipperary.

The hundredth performance of the present revival of "Caste" takes place on Friday.

The Manchester Free Libraries Committee have accepted from his widow a bust of the late Hepworth Dixon, the historian, to place in one of the libraries.

Mr. Henry Hermann, who some two years ago went to Mentone to collaborate with Mr. Christie Murray, is now prostrate in Paris from influenza, and is unable to write his usual letter to a sporting contemporary.

Several alterations and improvements are to be made in the character of Hansard's Debates in the ensuing session. Among other departures the daily parts are to be issued in paper covers.

Herr Johann Strauss, of Vienna, with his whole band, has passed through Berlin on his way to New York on a three months' contract with a Brooklyn impresario.

The opening services of the week of united and universal prayer, held yesterday at Steinway Hall, Exeter Hall, Mildmay Hall, and other places in the metropolis, were numerously attended, and the proceedings were marked throughout by much earnestness.

The number of playgoers eager to see Sarah Bernhardt in "Joan of Arc" is a Paris correspondent says, almost unprecedented. The success of the piece is unquestioned, and in two days the receipts have amounted to 30,000 francs (£1,200).

THERMOMETER.
FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
BAROMETER.
South England (with Channel).—Southerly and southwesterly winds, fresh or strong; mild, some showers, bright intervals.
Noon to-day and Yesterday
Sun Rises 8h. 7m.
Sets 4h. 6m.
Moon—Last Qr. 6, 10th, 6h. 33m. M.
Noon to-day
Yesterday
THE WIND AT NOON TO-DAY.
HIGH WATER
London Bridge.
Morn. 2h. 8m.
After. 2h. 35m.
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, Jan. 7, 1890.—Bright, springlike; wind moderate
Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S Instruments.

THE MONEY MARKET.

[Friday.

HOME RAILWAYS DULL.—FOREIGN STOCKS STEADY.—AMERICANS WEAK.—MARKETS INACTIVE.

There is still a good demand for accommodation in the shape of short loans, but as the market has now at least a portion of the dividend money much less pressure is observable than has been the case for the past few days, and borrowers can generally obtain what they require at 4½ per cent. The discount rate for three months bank paper remains nominally at 4¾ per cent, with only a small amount of business passing. The outlook for the immediate future is very uncertain, and operators are considering the possibility of having to face a 7 per cent. Bank rate. The Bank has as yet received nothing as a result of the advance to 6 per cent, but it is hardly likely that a further upward movement will be made until something more has been done to bring up open market rates nearer to the official minimum. The New York exchange on London fortunately has shown a further advance, and it is to be hoped that with the conclusion of the Bourse liquidation in Paris the French exchange will recover.

The Stock Markets remain in an inanimate condition, and it is scarcely probable that there will be a resumption of activity until operators can see their way a little more clearly with regard to the future of the Money Market. It is not a very profitable operation as a rule to speculate for the rise, and carry forward transactions when money is as high as it now is. Markets generally, therefore, present a waiting attitude. There is a strong undertone, however, and values are not allowed to fall to any extent. Consols are a trifle higher now that the settlement has been concluded, but in the Home Railway market movements are irregular, and no change of importance is discernible. Foreign Government Bonds are quiet, but there is again a demand for Peruvian issues. American Railroads are generally weak in response to lower New York quotations, but here too the variations are of slight interest. The Louisville and Nashville has declared a 3 per cent. scrip dividend. The surplus, after deducting the scrip dividend, has been increased to 411,743 dols. A special despatch from Washington says the bill for subsidising an American steamship company to carry the mails has been referred to the Commerce Committee. Trunks are dull, and Mexican Railway issues have fallen smartly on the traffic for the week of £13,400. There is rather a tendency to weakness in the South African department.

We are informed that the conveyance of the Cincinnati, Washington, and Baltimore Railroad to the new company is now complete. The new securities are being printed, and will soon be ready for delivery. The name of the new company is the Baltimore and Ohio South-Western Railroad Company.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Budapest has sent to the Foreign Office the conditions on which the Hungarian Minister of Commerce invites tenders for the construction of a navigable canal near the Iron Gates of the Danube and for the removal of obstructions in the river, and for other works connected with these undertakings. For the canal and some of the other works tenders are to be sent in by March 31, while the tenders for methods of, and apparatus for, blasting are to be sent in before the 31st inst. Forms of tender, in German and Hungarian, can be seen, and further information obtained, by personal application at the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office.

The premium on gold at Buenos Ayres has advanced to 132.50 per cent.

South African gold crushings for December—City and Suburban, 2,428 ozs.; Nigel, 1,467 ozs.; Sheba, 686 ozs.

Bank Dividends.—The Capital and Counties Bank, interim at the rate of 18 per cent, per annum; the North Eastern Banking Company, 4s. per share, being at the rate of £6 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum; the South Wales Union Bank (Limited) at the rate of 9 per cent; the Birmingham and Midland Bank (Limited), at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

Other Dividends:—Dawson and Co. (Limited), 6¼ per cent. for the year; the Moliat Pastoral Company (Limited), 7½ per cent. for the year; the London Omnibus Carriage Company (Limited), at the rate of 5 per cent. for the six months.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with a fair demand. Probable sales, 10,000 bales. Futures are half a point higher.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved:* Hull and Barnsley ¼, Great Western, Midland, and South Eastern D deferred ½. *Recede:* Caledonian ¼, North Western and North Eastern ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Rise:* Argentine 1888 ¼, Turkish Defence ¼, Peruvian 1870-1-6 and the 1872 1-6, and Spanish Four per Cents 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Higher:* Wabash Preference ½, Pennsylvania shares ⅛, Lake Shore shares, Canadian Pacific, and Mexican Central Bonds ¼. *Lower:* Milwaukee and St. Paul, Erie shares and Second Mortgage ¼, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas ¼, Union Pacific shares ¼, Central Pacific, Atlantic First Mortgage, and Reading shares ⅜.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Fallen:* Mexican Ordinary and Second Preference 1, the First Preference ¾, Grand Trunk First and Third Preference ½, and the Ordinary 1-16.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved:* Suez Canal ¼, Rio Tinto 3-16, and Ottoman Bank 1-16. *Recede:* De Beers 3-16.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Consols (2½ per cent.) money	97⅞	⅜	Chat. Preference	103¼	⅛
Do account	97⅝	⅜	North Western	220½	½
Do 1903	99¾	⅛	South Western	129	9
Do New	99⅝	5	Manchester & Sin.	92	½
2½ per Cent Annuities	97⅝	⅜	Great Northern	147⅜	8½
India 3½ per Cent	102½	5⅜	Met. Consolidated	85¼	¼
Local Loan Stock	107¼	⅜	Do. District	31½	2½
India 3½ per Cent	107¼	⅜	Midland	136⅞	⅞
Do. 4½ p. c. Rs.	101¼	2½	North British Pref	78½	½
Egyptian Unified	102⅝	⅛	Do. Def.	64½	¼
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	112½	15	Do. Pref.	84¾	¼
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	102	⅜ xd	Do. Deferred	54¾	¼
Birmingham 5 p. Sc.	129½	130½	Illinois Shares	118⅜	⅜
Do. Cedulas 4	92	⅛	Lake Shore	118⅜	9
Chilian 6½ ex 1882	99	101 xd	Ohio & Mississippi	22⅜	5⅛
Costa Rica A	88	90 xd	Louisand Nash.	81⅛	⅛
Do. B	88	90 xd	Mex. Cen. New Ists.	17⅜	14⅜
Egypt. State Dom.	102	⅛	Mex. Nat. Texas	13⅛	12
Do. Unified	92¼	3	N. Y. Cen. Shares	114	⅜
Do. Daira Sanieh	98½	⅜	New York Ontario	20¼	⅜
Do. Da 7 p. Sanieh	82½	5⅜	Erie Shares	20¼	⅜
French 5 p. c. Rents	89⅝	7 xd	Do. Sec. Mort.	108⅜	⅛
Do. 4½ p. c. Rents	104⅝	⅜	Norolk & West. Pref.	59¾	¼
French 4 p. c. 1815	95	¼	N. V. P. & Ot. 1st M.	80	¼ xd
Hong Gold Rents	83½	½ xd	North Pacific Pref.	77¾	⅜
Italian	93⅜	½ xd	Pennsylvania Sh.	55⅞	⅜
Mexican 6 per c. 1888	93¼	4½ xd	Philadelphia Sh.	20	⅝
Peruvian Rents	11	⅛	Reading Pref.	53¾	70¾
Do. 6 p. c.	19¾	⅝	Wabash Pref.	38¾	⅝
Portuguese	15¾	¼ xd	Do. Gen. Mort.	54	⅝
Russian 4 p. c. 1880	93⅞	½ xd	Grand Trunk Def.	10 13/16	1a 1/16
Spanish 4 p. c.	71⅞	2½ xd	Do. First Pref.	75¾	⅜
Turkish 1854	101	⅜	Do. Second Pref.	34¾	⅜
Series A	98½	9	Do. Third Pref.	23½	⅜
Series B	98½	⅜	Do. Guaranteed	76¾	⅛
Series D	17⅝	⅜	Mexican Ordinary	39½	⅜
4½ p. c. 1891	91¾	5⅛	Do. First Pref.	81¾	⅛
5 p. c. Defence	104¼	⅛	Do. 2nd Pref.	76½	7⅛
6 p. c. Series A	11	⅜	Leonardo Venet	12½	⅛
Uruguay Unified	71⅜	2½ xd	Varzea per cent.	7½	8
Virginia Funded	44	⅛ xd	Nitrate Railway	23	⅛
U.S. 4½ p. c.	125	⅜			
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			**BANKS.**		
Caledonian	127⅞	⅜	Alliance Bank	158½	15½
Great Eastern	81¼	4	City Bank	224	5½
Great Northern A	149	6	Consolidated Bank	8¾	9
Do. B	141	⅜	Imperial Ottoman	11	⅜
Great Western	171½	2½ xd	London and Country	91½	2½
Hull and Barnsley	51¾	⅜	Union of London	42	3
Lancashire and York	136	6	London and West	124¾	3½
Brighton (Ordinary)	138	9	London Joint Stock	74	3
Brighton A	162½	½	Nat. Prov. of Eng.	55	6
Chatham (Ordinary)	23½	⅜	Stand. Bank S. Africa	88	9

NINES.		
Indian Consolidated	3 9	9 3
Mysore Reefs	5⅛	⅛
Ooregum	1	⅛
Cape Copper	4 15/16	15/32nd
Namaqua	2⅛	⅛ xd
Mashonaland Agency	7⅛	⅛
Rio Tinto	11 3/16	7/16
Montana Exploration	1 3/16	3/16 xd
Delfontein Mining	23	⅛
Sheba Reefs	14¾	5⅛
TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES		
Anglo-American	53⅜	3⅛
Do. Pref.	81	9
Brazilian Submarine	12⅜	⅛
Direct Uni. States	5⅜	⅛
Eastern	13	⅛
Direct Spanish	15⅜	11
National Telephone	2	⅛
Globe Telegraph	2⅝	⅛
TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
London Gen. Omnibus	183	90
London Street	11⅜	12½
London Tramways	13	15
North Metropolitan	17⅛	13⅛
WATER WORKS.		
Antofagasta Water works	21½	3
East London	181	3
Grand Junction	142	30
Kent	27⅜	8½
Lambeth	231	6 xd
New River	151	3
Silvertown & Victoria	157	72
W. Middlesex	213	4
GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Gaslight & Coke A	21½	9
Imp. Continental	21⅜	18
South Metro. A	213	5
Do. B	221	3½
Do. C	210	90
London Electric	3⅞	4½
Metropolitan	1½	5½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp	8¾	⅜
Guinness	6	⅛
Hotchkiss	6¾	7
Hyrantand Map	15⅛	11⅜
Span Chat.	9¾	⅜
Liverpool Nitrate	15	15
Primitiva Nitrate	22⅜	⅜
Salt Union Shares	10⅛	⅜
T. and O. Steam		
Royal Mail Steam	71	4
Nat. Discount Co.	12	⅜
Hudson's Bay	13⅜	20½
Suez Canal	93¾	¼
Rand Mining Deep	13	3½
London and Hi. S.	80	7

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Felt's Asbestos		15⅛	17⅛	Lisbon Berlyn	10 0
San Jorge		6⅛	⅜	Oceana Land	15⅛
Tarapaca Water		11⅛	⅜	Sutherland Reef	5⅛
City and Suburban		12	⅛	Transvaal Land	1¼
Jumper Gold		11⅛	13⅛	G. F. S. Reefs	6
Jubilee		6⅛	7	Exploring Co.	13½
Salisbury		13⅛	⅜	Rothschild's Exploration	2⅛
Ruby		18½	19 pm	Southern Land	⅜

The returns for 1889 show a certain decline in the maritime progress of the port of Antwerp. The abolition of certain harbour dues is now urgently demanded.

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

The Queen's appearances in public are so few and far between that her subjects will naturally regret her decision not to open Parliament in person this year. Nevertheless, the decision is a wise one. A day's outing in February with the influenza abroad would be a risky experiment for a rheumatic patient.

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Mr. Stead's much-talked-of "Review of Reviews" is out this morning. Every one will be struck by the cover, which represents in black and white half a globe, symbolical, of course, of the extensive range of Mr. Stead's effort. The familiar oceans and continents have given way to the names of the hundred and one periodicals which are dealt with in this wonderful sixpennyworth. Beneath the southern pole of Mr. Stead's globe lies an open book enumerating the special articles noticed, and the northern hemisphere is also used for the same purpose. The *Review* contains eighty-four large pages of closely printed matter, so I am compelled to stop at the cover this morning.

***

The latest puzzle in literary circles is to "Find John Morley's article in the *Speaker*." For my own part I have not succeeded in finding any article quite up to Mr. Morley's best "form;" but if he really was among the contributors to Saturday's number, I should from internal evidence be decidedly disposed to select "The Government and the Session."

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It is understood that Mr. Henry James was also represented in Saturday's *Speaker*; if so, there is little difficulty in putting him down for "Browning in Westminster Abbey." "Q.," who contributed "Mid-winter in Cornwall," is, of course, Mr. Couch, the author of "Dead Man's Rock," &c. The raciest article in the number is certainly the slashing review of Lord Carnarvon's "Chesterfield." I have not heard any likely guess of the author hereof. The attraction in the second number of Mr. Reid's paper will be an article by Mr. Gladstone apropos of the recent volumes by Tennyson and Browning.

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The Baddeley function at Drury Lane last night was more crowded than ever. Mr. Harris has evidently created a veritable Frankenstein in the way of entertainments, and I suppose he will only put a check upon the number of his invitations when the walls of his theatre refuse to contain the multitude of his guests. At any rate, the evening was both festive and enjoyable.

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In connection with the "violations of the law of copyright" referred to in the "Visit to the Custom House" described in another column, I may perhaps repeat a story I was once told, on the best authority, about Mr. H. M. Stanley. The great traveller is also a great reader, and Mr. Ruskin is, it seems, amongst his chosen authors. Some years ago Mr. Ruskin's present publisher was asked, as a special favour, to allow a set of the pirated American editions of his works to pass through for the use of Mr. Stanley. The matter was referred to Mr. Ruskin, who replied that—"Mr. Stanley had much better not burden himself with stolen property on his missionary expedition. He shall c nly not do so with permission of mine." Mr. Ruskin must have been in a bad mood that day. Otherwise he would surely have been prompted by his usual generosity to be content with his little "dig" about "stolen property," and to allow Mr. Stanley to have his "pirates."

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A more jarring note of discord could hardly be conceived than that which I noticed yesterday afternoon at the burial of the twenty-six little victims of the Forest Gate fire. The bells were still tolling, and the endless funeral procession, with its seven hearses, was still moving along the grimy road towards the cemetery, when I passed the stately building in which the poor children had found their death. All the blinds were down; the front garden was deserted, except for a couple of small inmates hanging about the railings and receiving oranges from sympathetic friends; the flags on the high mast were lowered, and there was a general air of sadness about. But on tarrying a moment near the gates, I noticed that in the playground at the side the pupils were shouting and bawling and pursuing their usual games. A poor woman who stood beside me murmured, "Surely, they might have waited till their dead playmates are in their graves." And I thought so too.

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All who for their sins were compelled to be constant in their attendance at the Parnell Commission will read with sincere regret the paragraph in this morning's papers announcing the death of Mr. A. Bowden, the chief usher of the Court. When even the main features of the proceedings of the Commission have faded from the memory, the spare figure and kindly countenance and courteous manners of Mr. Bowden will have secured for him a place in the gallery of vivid mind portraits which will then be all that remains of one of the most remarkable assemblies of modern times. It was only the other day that I recorded the esteem in which Sir Charles Russell had shown that he held Mr. Bowden, who received from the illustrious Q.C. a silver snuff box suitably inscribed; and this esteem I am sure was shared by all who came in contact with the historic usher, whose picturesque figure was ever a tempting "bit" to the artists who frequented the court. Pigott—Macdonald—Bowden. Who will be the next to go?

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"LONDON DAY BY DAY."

Lord and Lady Rosebery have forwarded to the session clerk of Dalmeny their annual contribution of £15 for the poor of the parish.—*Daily Telegraph*, January 6, 1890.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury have distributed their usual Christmas gratuities (consisting in each case of two Jubilee half-crowns) to the butcher's boy, the baker's boy, and other purveyors of Hatfield House.

Mr. Gladstone's contribution to the offertory at Hawarden Church on Sunday last amounted to half a sovereign.

Owing to the large consumption of handkerchiefs occasioned by the prevalent influenza, last week's washing-bill at Tompkyns Towers (the seat of Mr. and Mrs. Ponsonby de Tompkyns) reached the abnormal figure of £4 16*s.* 9½*d.*

With her accustomed munificence, Mrs. Smith, of The Chestnuts, Camberwell, has distributed no fewer than fifteen flannel petticoats among a similar number of deserving old women.

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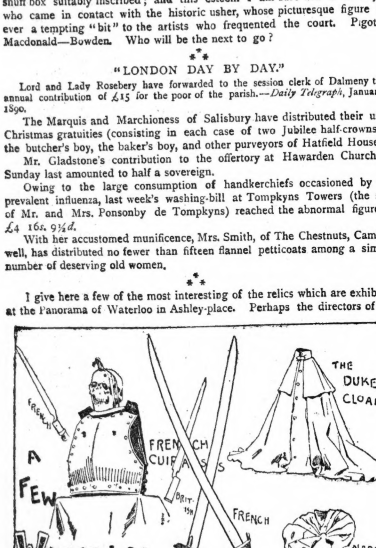
I give here a few of the most interesting of the relics which are exhibited at the Panorama of Waterloo in Ashley-place. Perhaps the directors of the



New Gallery will some day bring together a collection of relics of a score of famous engagements. A battle exhibition would draw, I should think.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

SIR JOHN POPE HENNESSY'S POLITICAL INTENTIONS.

As already stated Sir John Pope Hennessy has arrived in London from Mauritius. If he has not already severed his connection with the Colonial Office, he will within the next few weeks, as the time has arrived when he can retire from the service and claim the pension awarded to colonial governors. It is an open secret that Sir John Hennessy is an ardent Home Ruler, and that he will offer himself for the first Irish constituency that falls vacant.

ART TREASURES AT THE GROSVENOR.

It is interesting to learn that over fifty examples of Landseer have been lent to the shortly opening exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery, two magnificent specimens of Rubens, several works by Velasquez, as well as those by Morland, Stubbs, and other famous painters too numerous to mention.

THE BISHOP OF TRURO'S HEALTH.

Had Bishop Wilkinson's health been maintained there is little doubt, writes a London correspondent, that he would have been translated from the obscure and impecunious diocese of Truro to that of Durham, to which he belongs by birth, and in which the first part of his ministerial life was spent. But, unhappily, the latest accounts received from Egypt report no improvement in the Bishop's health. His friend and chaplain, Canon Scott Holland, of St. Paul's, is travelling up the Nile with him.

BETROTHAL OF EX-SECRETARY BAYARD'S DAUGHTER.

Miss Ellen Bayard, youngest daughter of ex-Secretary Bayard is, says a Central News telegram, betrothed to Count Lewenhaupt, who was formerly attaché to the Swedish Legation in New York.

MR. ELLIS LEVER AND THE SALFORD CORPORATION.

Messrs. Godfrey Rhodes and Evans, of Halifax, write to a contemporary:—"We have retained Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P. (the Attorney-General), Mr. Frank Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. J. Lawson Walton, and at the trial we shall be perfectly prepared to bring out the true facts of the case. It is quite true that our Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Lever have had an interview with Mr. Hunter, at Strangeways Prison, but it was in consequence of an express request from Hunter, and Hunter confirmed this request in the presence of Mr. Samuel Brown at the time of the interview. If the action proceeds to trial it will probably be necessary for us to call Mr. Hunter as a witness on behalf of the defendant, in case the plaintiffs should fail to call him."

THE LADY FOLLOWER OF FATHER DAMIEN.

Reference was made a day or two ago to a lady about to start from London as nurse for the leper colony at Molokai. Being desirous of ascertaining the name of the heroine who had thus elected to consign herself to a life-martyrdom and probably to a dreadful death, a London correspondent communicated with the vicar of the metropolitan parish in connection with whose local mission the lady is going out for further information. The reply was that "the nurse who is going out to the lepers in Molokai wishes to be unknown." There is something heroic even in the determination to go on such a fearsome mission, but the spirit of self-sacrifice rises immeasurably in human estimation when it prompts those who make it to carry out their beneficient mission unknown to the world.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

Mr. William O'Brien is about to address a series of public meetings in England. He will make his first appearance at a great meeting which is to be held at Leeds, and will be accompanied by Canon Keller.

DR. KING AND THE VACANT BISHOPRIC.

It does not seem to be understood in some quarters (writes a London correspondent) why people are pushing the claims of the Bishop of Lincoln to the vacant see of Durham. They talk as though it were a mere question of promotion to a more conspicuous and more lucrative office. But that is not the reason, or at all events it is only half the reason. The truth is that if the Bishop of Lincoln were transferred to Durham he would pass from the province of Canterbury to that of York. He would no longer be a Suffragan of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it is therefore urged that the proceedings now pending at Lambeth would come naturally to an end. This, some contend, would be a peaceful solution of a very sad and perplexing problem. But even supposing that the Prime Minister were unwise enough to lend himself to any such manœuvre, it does not follow that peace would be assured. Dr. King is consistent; the acts complained of would at once be repeated, and the old difficulty would reappear.

A WILKES BOOTH LETTER.

The *New York Herald* published in New York yesterday a long letter signed by "J. Wilkes Booth," supposed to have been written on the day of his assassination of President Lincoln. It is very dramatic in style, praises the institution of slavery, declares the past love of the writer for the old flag, denounces the North, and asserts his willingness to die for what he calls his duty to the South.

MR. BALFOUR AND THE SHAMROCK.

Mr. Balfour, at the children's fancy ball in the Viceregal Lodge last night, had the first dance with the little daughter of Lord Zetland, representing the Shamrock of Erin.

THE PROPOSED SUTTON AND WIMBLEDON RAILWAY.

The scheme, of which official notice was given last November, for incorporating a company with powers to construct a railway over three miles in length, commencing by a junction with the London and South Western Railway near Wimbledon, and terminating in Sutton near the site of the proposed cemetery (to authorise which a bill has been deposited) has been abandoned by the promoters, and will not therefore be further proceeded with. It was proposed to form a junction with the recently opened Wimbledon and West Metropolitan Railway, and running powers would also have been sought into Wimbledon station.

LADY CYCLISTS' CLUB.

The Ladies' Cycling Club, which is intended to provide amateur lady riders with the runs from which it was stated they are now debarred on account of the very long journeys chosen by men, was inaugurated last evening at 23, Broadway, Hammersmith—the head quarters *pro tem.* The uniform chosen was a dress of green and gold, the colours of the badge; and it was decided that a list of the runs to be undertaken during the season be issued every March. Mrs. Payne was chosen captain, and Miss Leno secretary. Social meetings, Cinderella dances, and gatherings of various kinds are in the programme, and from the number of letters that have been received it is expected that not a few ladies will join.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES RODGERS.

The death took place last night of Mr. James Rodgers, the proprietor of the Birmingham Prince of Wales Theatre. He was well known and widely respected throughout the profession. Mr. Rodgers was the son of an officer in the Scots Greys, and at the beginning of his career played as an actor for 15*s.* a week. His management was characterized by enterprise and admirable judgment in the selection of pieces for representation. Mr. Rodgers always maintained the most cordial relations with members of the theatrical profession, and many of them, such as the Buckstones, the Chippendales, the Kendals, Mr. Irving, Mr. Toole, used to look upon an engagement at the Prince of Wales Theatre in some sense as a personal visit to Mr. Rodgers and the circle of friends whom they used to meet around his hospitable board. In 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Kendal made their first independent venture at the theatre, and Mr. Rodgers, who always prided himself that they should have started under his management, made a special point of appearing as Mercutio in their representation of "Romeo and Juliet."

EXCITING SCENE IN A LION'S CAGE.

A Miss Sterling nearly lost her life the other night at Béziers, during a performance of a somewhat novel kind in a lion's cage, in connection with Redenbach's Menagerie. Miss Sterling was in the habit of entering a cage containing several lions, together with the tamer Redenbach, and Dornay, a professor of hypnotism. It was on the programme that she should be put into a state of hypnotic sleep by Dornay in the midst of the lions. On Friday evening Miss Sterling went to sleep in her accustomed posture on the floor of the cage and Redenbach proceeded to make the lions go through the antics which are expected from them on such occasions. An exceptionally savage animal was more rebellious than usual that night, and it sprang upon the hypnotised subject, and fixed its claws in her legs. Redenbach boldly attacked the infuriated brute, and succeeded in diverting its attention from Miss Sterling, who made her escape, together with Dornay. As may be supposed, this scene caused the wildest excitement amongst the spectators. Miss Sterling's limbs were badly lacerated.

PLAINNESS OF SPEECH FROM MR. ASQUITH.

A DEMAND FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON HOME RULE.

WHO ARE "THE REBELS BEHIND?"

Last night an address on the future of Liberalism was delivered by Mr. Asquith, M.P., to the Junior Liberal Association of Leeds. In the course of his remarks the hon. gentleman said he was not going into the details of the Home Rule settlement; he had repeatedly expressed the opinion, which he now expressed again, that the leaders of the Liberal party would be acting wisely and justly if they were to take the country a little more into their confidence in this matter. (Cheers.) He thought so because he was very much afraid that when they got, as they would get at the next general election, their Home Rule majority—(cheers)—they would then find themselves confronted by an unscrupulous Opposition; and on the other side, as they might expect from their experience in 1886, there would be some of their supporters who had not quite made up their minds and did not quite know what they were to vote for. What he wanted of their leaders was to define as far as possible their position, so as to disarm at one and the same time the Opposition in front and the rebels behind. (Cheers.) If they went to the country with a vague formula, calling it Home Rule or local self-government, or whatever they pleased, and obtained a majority on behalf of that formula, what would be the position when they went back to Westminster and introduced a bill? The wisest and best scheme it might be, but the Opposition would tell them at once that was not the issue upon which the country had voted. "You have," they would say, "no mandate for the introduction of that measure, and we are justified in obstructing it or mutilating it and forcing the Government to take it back to the constituencies." And what was the Government to say to some of their own followers, who would say, "Our electors sent us to support Home Rule, but this is not the kind of thing they intended us to support, and we shall go into a Cave, or, as the Radical Unionists did in 1886, vote with the Opposition?" These were not imaginary dangers, and while he yielded to no man in his loyalty and devotion to their illustrious leader, he would earnestly and respectfully submit to him that such dangers as these ought to be avoided, and there ought to be forthcoming a broad and general outline on which the opinion of the country was intended to be taken. (Cheers.)

YESTERDAY'S FUNERAL AT FOREST GATE.

THE LITTLE VICTIMS LAID TO REST.

The last sad act in the tragedy which began in New Year's night at the Forest Gate Industrial Schools was performed yesterday afternoon, when the twenty-six boys who were suffocated in the fire were buried at the West Ham Cemetery. All trains from Liverpool-street to the northern suburbs for some hours before the time fixed for the funeral took mourners down to the Maryland Point and Forest Gate stations; mourners with pinched and woebegone faces, and nearly all of whom had evidently found it hard to obtain the wherewithal for buying such "weeds" as even the poorest of the poor think it their duty to wear in honour of their dead. It was a miserable day, and Forest Gate, at no time an ideal suburb, looked its very gloomiest with street after street of cottages in all of which the blinds were drawn in token of sympathy with those who came from the far east to bury their children. No need at the station to ask the way to the St. James's Church, where the funeral service was to be held: an endless stream of men, with crape bands round their caps or sleeves, and of women and children with bits of coarse crape on their hats and bonnets, trudging patiently along the grimy road, showed sufficiently the way to the church where the little victims would once more be gathered before they were laid to rest in the long row of open graves.

Outside the church a large unruly crowd was surging like angry waves beating against a rocky shore. The upper floor windows of every cottage of the long street were crowded with girls and women leaning dangerously far out to catch a glimpse of the scene at the church-door when, one by one, the row of hearses drove up and the coffins were carried into the church. Hawkers with "pretty memorial cards, a penny each," appraised their goods; a band of musicians, with mourning cards stuck in their caps, seemed to mock at the cruel calamity as in doggrel rhyme they sang off a version of the events of the fatal New Year's night; women, half-fainting in the crowd, moaned and shrieked for help; the urchins jumped into the mire where it was deepest, and rejoiced to see the mud patches fly high up and on all around. More than one wild fight was fought between the brawny ruffians who formed a considerable contingent in the low, fierce mob, through which it was impossible to reach the church door, except by joining the long procession of mourning carriages and friends of the dead, who, slowly and silently, went along under the leaden sky.

The contrast between the scene inside and outside of the church was very striking. Here too was a dense crowd, but instead of the confusion which reigned outside there was scarcely a murmur to be heard, and all eyes were turned to where the two rows of small coffins stood on the trestles in the chancel, and two more long rows below the lectern and the pulpit. The flickering light of a few gas flames fell on the little light blue shells, round which there seemed to hang so unearthly and awful a stillness. On some of them lay a small wreath of the first of spring flowers, but the majority were unadorned. Softly and slowly the music of the organ and the voices of the choir fell on the ear, and the old clergyman read the stern, grand lesson for "the burial of the dead." How strange it sounded, that allusion to the grain which "is sown in dishonour!" Poor little pauper lads whose pilgrimage was so short, and who at the best were but wanderers on the earth, with no home but the great building in which they died, and no love to guard their days except that which strangers could give them—"sown in dishonour!" How passing strange the words appeared as they were uttered above the twenty-six tiny coffins.

The daylight began to fade; the saints in quaint medallions on the walls were almost shrouded in darkness when the service came to an end with the singing of the hymn "When our heads are bowed with woe." More than one voice broke before the first verse was sung; low moans and sobs mingled with the sweet, sad tune; strong men brushed the tears which would not be suppressed, from their pale faces, and it seemed once or twice as if the singers would break down entirely in their last farewell. "Thou hast deigned their load to bear; Jesu, born of woman, hear" they sang, and then the end had come. Borne on the shoulders of two men, one little coffin after the other was carried down the aisle of the church; the bearers returned again and again, and though they bit their lips in a strong endeavour to show no weakness, the tears ran down over their cheeks as they went along with their light burdens. Then came the friends of the little victims—the mothers, broken down with grief; the fathers who tried to be "strong" and could not; and the pale-faced children of the slums. It was a mournful sight in the grey twilight of the afternoon, when the procession moved slowly out of the church, while the funeral march, with its wails of woe, and its gentle sounds which "speak of heaven," was repeated time after time till the church-doors had closed upon the last of the mourners. Round the gates of the cemetery the crowd was battling once again, climbing the rails, the gates, and the wheels and boxes of the vehicles which stood in the road to let the funeral train pass in. The hawkers did a brisk business with their cards and mourning "favours," and the police worked hard to stem the turbid flood of those dregs of the population in whom death, even in its most pathetic aspect, stirs only the one sentiment of excited curiosity.

When the coffins, with their simple metal plates and ornaments, had been put into the small damp cubicles of the great silent dormitory, another hymn—a hymn for children—was sung as a last lullaby to the sleepers; and it was all but dark when the mourners returned from where they had laid their little ones.

"O THE MISTLETOE BOUGH!"

A boy at Lille has just met with the same fate as the heroine in the sad song of the "Mistletoe Bough." Louis Herbaut, fourteen years old, had been keeping the New Year in a tavern with his uncle and aunt. He soon afterwards disappeared, and a most diligent search was made for him to no purpose, until it occurred to his uncle the next day to look inside a large box which was kept in a loft. There, to his horror, he found his nephew's corpse. It is supposed that Louis Herbaut felt unwell after the merrymaking, and that he chose the box as a quiet place where he could lie down without the risk of interference. The lid fell down accidentally, and he was suffocated.

"ROTTEN TO THE CORE."

Addressing a jury at the Poplar town hall yesterday, Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, the coroner for East London, said that in the course of the day he had held four inquests, and in each case poverty had hastened death. As to the system of outdoor relief, which a juror declared was rotten to the core, Mr. Baxter affirmed that those really in need were not reached, while those with a glib tongue and brazen manner obtained what was not meant for them. It was a pity that the inquests were not held in Eaton-square, so that the rich of the West-end might see how the poor of the East-end existed.

INFLUENZA, FEVERS, BLOOD POISONS, &c.—"Egypt, Cairo.—Since my arrival in Egypt in August last I have on three separate occasions been attacked by fever, from which on the first occasion I lay in hospital for six weeks. The last two attacks have been, however, completely repulsed in a remarkably short space of time by the use of your valuable Fruit Salt, to which I owe my present health at the very least, if not my life itself. Heartfelt gratitude for my restoration and preservation impels me to add my testimony to the already overwhelming store of the same, and in so doing I feel that I am but obeying the dictates of duty.—Believe me to be, gratefully yours,—A CORPORAL 19th Hussars, 26th May, 1883." CAUTION.—Examine each Bottle, and see the Capsule is marked, ENO'S FRUIT SALT; without it you have been imposed on by a worthless, and occasionally poisonous, imitation.

THE QUEEN WILL NOT OPEN PARLIAMENT.

The reports of the Queen's intention to open Parliament which have been recently published are inexact. Although we are happy to be able to state that her Majesty is well in health and perfectly able to perform all her important duties, she has for some time past been suffering a good deal from rheumatism, so that it is impossible for her to undertake the fatigue and exposure in full dress, which the ceremony would entail. We have therefore to announce that the Queen will not open Parliament in person this year.

TWELFTH NIGHT AT DRURY LANE THEATRE.

The festival of St. Baddeley was celebrated last night with even more than the usual pomp and circumstance, for the dense crowd which thronged the temple of Augustus Druriolanus seemed to be, if possible, bigger than ever. At twelve o'clock they commenced assembling to do honour to the combined hospitality of Baddeley and Harris, and by half an hour after midnight, when Mr. James Fernandez—rather more juvenile in appearance than he was last year—stepped to the front of the stage and began his annual oration, the auditorium almost bore its orthodox pantomime appearance. Many were the well-known faces to be discerned by the festive glare of the mammoth chandelier—Lord Mayor Isaacs, Alderman Sir Whittaker Ellis, the perennial Sir Edward Inglefield, Colonel Shadwell Clerke, who in company with a host of distinguished "brethren" gave quite a masonic tinge to the proceedings, Mr. Charles Gill, fresh from bow-street, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Stuart Cumberland, "Tay Pay," a bevy of Gaiety beauties, led by Miss Letty Lind and Miss Sylvia Grey, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Miss Olga Brandon, Mr. Frank Benson, a large contingent from "La Tosca," the genial Mr. Toole, Mr. John L. Shine, Miss Minnie Palmer and her husband, Mr. Arthur Cecil, Miss Marie Linden, Miss Rose Norreys, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mr. Lennox Browne, who discoursed learnedly on the subject of the prevailing epidemic, Mr. Matthew Brodie, Miss Florence West, a goodly number of the stars of the Drury Lane pantomime, including Miss Agnes Hewitt, and a crowd of others very much "too numerous to mention." Of course "Augustus" was cheered to the echo, and equally of course Mr. Fernandez made a neat and appropriate speech in introducing the comestibles—including the all-important cake—to the notice of the guests. Especially happy was his reference to the "innate diffidence and bashfulness" of Augustus Druriolanus, who blushed most becomingly at the allusion. Then the huge stage, with its rows of supper tables, was finally surrendered to the visitors the waiters were swept away in the wild rush for oyster-patties and champagne bottles. The hour was late indeed at which the last of the guests emerged into Catherine-street.

A "SCHOOL FOR THE TRAINING OF PRISON WARDERS."

The Belgian prison administration is instituting at the prison of St. Gilles, Brussels, a normal school for the training of prison warders. Similar schools are found very useful in France, Germany, and Italy. The extensive application of the ticket-of-leave system renders the careful training of prison warders especially necessary.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO WILHELM III.

Prince Bismarck has requested from the Prussian Cabinet an expression of its opinion as to the further settlement of the question about a national monument to the late Emperor William. It will be remembered that there has already been one competition of models for such a monument among the artists of all Germany: but, although handsome money prizes were awarded by the jury of representative judges for the best models (which were architectural in their nature), there seems to be a strong objection in high quarters to the selection of any of these prize models for execution; and otherwise, too, the enterprise is beset with difficulties. Hence this appeal of the Chancellor to the Prussian Ministry to help him out of the difficulty in regard to the project.

RENAN AND JOAN OF ARC.

M. Ernest Renan has been asked his opinion about Joan of Arc, who has been brought into so much prominence in these irosaic times by Mdme. Sarah Bernhardt and M. Barbier. According to the philosopher, the legend of Joan is a most beautiful one. She brought to the soldiers of Charles VII. her glory as a virgin, and she acted upon their superstitious hearts by her revelations. To them she became as one of the saints who ornamented their banners. M. Renan felt disinclined to run the risk of losing of her prestige, but from his knowledge of the epoch obtained by reading he was of opinion that Joan's presence was known to few of the soldiers, while many of the staff of the army must have resented her interference with military matters, and wished her elsewhere. If, however, the part played by the Warrior Maid was less brilliant than many supposed, she ought to be admired for the splendid answers which she gave her judges, and testified to the elevation of her sentiments.

SLANDERING THE SHAH.

It having been stated in Paris that his Majesty the Shah of Persia had directed that the expenses of his tour round Europe should be defrayed by the various Legations, and that Prince Malcom-Khan had been recalled for having demurred to this, General Navar Aga, Persian Minister to France and Belgium, denies all these rumours emphatically. Prince Malcom-Khan, he says, has left Tehran on account of his attacks on the Shah's Ministers, and is to be replaced by Mouin el Wouzara, Consul-General of Persia in Tiflis, who is now on his way to London in order to take up his important appointment. As to the question of expenses, General Navar Aga says that the Grand Vizier never for a moment entertained the idea of asking the Legations or the representatives of the Shah abroad in order to defray the last journey of his Majesty's tour in Europe. These expenses amount to over £20,000, but far from diminishing the allowances of his diplomatic representatives abroad in order to meet them, Nasr-ed-Din gave orders on his return to Persia that the sums allowed to the legations in the various European capitals which he visited should be increased, and this has been duly done.

THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS.

The question of insuring child-life, with all the other questions that spring from it, is one which it is satisfactory to find engaging official attention in a Blue-book. The problem is one of those which can only be solved by "constant pegging away," and the more widely extended the consideration it receives the more likely is it that the proper steps for reform (whatever they may be) will be promptly decided and carried out. From the Reports Part A. of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, just published, it seems that two cases of over-payment on the death of children were brought to the notice of the Chief Registrar in 1888, and reported by him or the Assistant Registrar to the Treasury, with a view to prosecution. In one case a sum of £10 5s. had been paid on the death of a child, aged four, the maximum being £6. In the other, £7 5s. had been paid on the death of a child aged two. In reference to the former case, the local registrar, Mr. Hallsworth, stated that a society in Ardwick, he was informed, "regularly paid more than stated on the certificate." In the latter, the parent had received the legal certificates up to £6, and obtained the remainder without. In the former case a conviction was obtained. In the latter, no proceedings were taken, the society appearing to have acted in ignorance.

Last June, too, a prosecution at the Oldham police-court, on behalf of the Chief Registrar, resulted in a conviction against an unregistered society for paying £5 on a registrar's certificate of the death of a girl six years old, which document had previously produced £10 from the Refuge Assurance Company. The unregistered society pleaded guilty, but stated that the money had been paid by the treasurer's daughter, on being repeatedly pressed by the father of the child. In April, another Oldham case is reported, when a child ten months old met its death by swallowing a marble. The mother was warned by two doctors that unless the marble was removed the baby would die. She refused to allow the operation, and the child died. It was insured for £3 in the Refuge Assurance Company, and for £3 in the Oldham Mutual Sick and Burial Society. The jury were only of opinion that the mother committed an error of judgment in not sending for advice till the morning after the accident! In this case, it will be observed, the legal maximum was not reached, so that there was no question of over-insurance. But it is difficult not to regard it as probable that if the child in question could have been insured for sickness instead of on death it might still have been alive.

The "Deptford Poisoning Cases" and the murder of a little girl by her father, who was recently hanged at Derby, are also cited. Of the latter, the lamentable story of George Horton, who is said to have poisoned his seven-year old Kate by forcing her to drink strychnine, we are reminded that he had insured her with the Refuge Assurance Company on the 23rd of April, 1888, for £7, which would become payable twelve months after, and he poisoned his child in May, 1889. It is clear from this that the sums allowed by law to be insured on the death of children constitute a more than sufficient temptation to child-murder for unnatural parents, since George Horton might lawfully have insured his child for £10; thus confirming the opinion expressed by the Chief Registrar in his examination before the Select Committee on Friendly Societies, that the sums payable should be reduced. Indeed, the limits suggested by him (£5 for children under five years of age, and £6 for children under twelve) are shown by the Horton case to be them elves too high for safety.

Indeed, it seems abundantly clear that the danger to human life "not only infant," significantly adds the report, by insurance, where no insurable interest, or no sufficient insurable interest, exists, is very considerable, and it is to be hoped that after the scandals of this kind brought to light last year, the evil may be notably diminished during 1890.

INVESTMENTS IN LAND IN WALES.

The value of land and the desire of investing in landed property do not seem to be on the wane in Wales. The leading property auctioneers in North Wales, Messrs William Dew and Sons, of Bangor, have published a tabulated statement of their sales during the past year. Twenty-eight property sales were placed in their hands, and the grand total realized was £327,502—a sum unprecedented in the history of Welsh "knights of the hammer." The great sale of the year was that of the Craig-y-don estate, in Anglesey, belonging to Colonel Owen Williams, who has now given up all his Welsh property.

THE CHISWICK MYSTERY—AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

Dr. Dodsworth made a post-mortem examination yesterday of the body of Margaret Bryden, who was found dead at her house, Linden-gardens, on New Year's morning. The medical opinion is that death was caused by the deceased accidentally swallowing her false teeth, and that the deceased herself put the linen bag in her mouth in attempting to remove them, when they must have slipped into the gullet. The body was organically diseased, and even a slight obstruction to breathing was sufficient to cause death.

WHAT PATTI TOOK FROM CHICAGO.

The Patti season at Chicago (twenty-one performances) realised £46,000.—*Dalziel's Cable Agency.*

BIDDERS FOR THE ALASKA SEAL CONTRACT.

There is lively bidding in New York for the Alaska Seal Contract. The old company desires a renewal of their contract. Several Republican politicians want to form a competing company. E. J. Baldwin, the San Francisco millionaire, is starting another, and a fourth is pro ected by an English syndicate. The profits of the old company amounted to £20,000,000 in twenty years. Their contract with the Government expires on May 20.—*Dalziel's Cable Agency.*

MORE LETTERS FROM DR. PETERS.

The Emin Pasha Relief Committee at Berlin has received a telegram from Herr Clements Denhardt, at Zanzibar stating that he recently received at Lamu letters from Dr. Peters addressed to the Committee. Dr. Peters was on his way from Mount Kenia to Lake Baringo.—*Reuter.*

TO-DAYS NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review should such seem to be necessary.]

ARNOLD FORSTER, H. O. "The Citizen Reader." (Cassell and Co.)
[The hundredth thousand of an admirable little book, which might with advantage be read by many children of a larger growth. Cloth. Pp. x., 216 Price 1s. 6d.

AUTHOR, JOHN KINGSTON. "Stories told to Children." Pp. 182.]
[A volume of short stories and sketches. Cloth. Pp. 182.]

BOYCE, ANNE OGDEN. "Records of a Quaker Family: the Richardsons of Cleveland," (Samuel Harris and Co., 5, Bishopsgate Without.)
[Portraits, genealogical tables, and an index to the marriages. 4to. Cloth. Pp. 298.]

HOLLAND, CLIVE. "Raymi; or, The Children of the Sun." (Henry and Co.)
[A novel in one volume, inscribed to Mr. Walter Besant, "as a slight acknowledgment by the writer of kindness received from him," &c. Cloth, Pp. 318. Illustrations. Price 5s.

"LIFE AND LETTERS OF WILLIAM FLEMING STEVENSON, D.D." By his Wife. (Thomas Nelson and Sons.)
[Cloth. Pp. 284. Portrait. A new edition.]

MACLAY, ARTHUR COLLINS. "Mito Tashiki: a Tale of Old Japan." (Putnam's Sons.)
[A feudal romance descriptive of the decline of the Shogunate, and of the downfall of the power of the Tokugawa family. Cloth. Pp. 456.]

MASSON, DAVID (Editor). "The Collected Writings of Thomas De Quincey." (Adam and Charles Black.)
[Vol. xiv. continued. "London Reminiscences and Confessions of an Opium Eater." Cloth. Pp. vi., 472. Price 3s. 6d.]

MITCHELL, DONALD G. "English Lands, Letters, and Kings, from Celt to Tudor." (Sampson Low.)
[Informal chats concerning English literary people, and the ways in which they worked. Cloth. Pp. 320.]

NEVILL, F. "Retrogression or Development." (Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co.)
[Thoughts on Religion and Science from the Christian Standpoint. Cloth. Pp. 170 Price 3s. 6d.]

ROLLESTON, T. W. (Editor). "Prose Writings of Thomas Davis." (Walter Scott.)
[A volume of the Camelot Series. Mr. Rolleston contributes a brief Introduction. Cloth. Pp. xiv., 286. Price 1s.]

SHAW, G. BERNARD (Editor). "Fabian Essays in Socialism." (The Fabian Society.)
[A volume of Essays on (1) the Bases of Socialism: Economic (Bernard Shaw), Historic (Sydney Webb). Industrial (Clarke), and Moral (Olivier); (2) The Organization of Society (Wallis and Mrs. Besant); and (3) The Transition to Social Democracy (Graham Wallas and Sidney and Hubert Bland). Cloth. Pp. vi., 224.]

"SOMERVILLE GIBNEY." "Captain Jacques: A Romance of the Time of the Plague." (Roper and Drowley.)
[Cloth. Pp. vi., 322.]

STANLEY, ARTHUR PENRHYN, D.D. "The Life and Correspondence of Thomas Arnold, D.D." (Ward, Lock, and Co.)
[A welcome reprint in the "Minerva Library of Famous Books." Cloth, Pp. xxiv., 548. Portrait and illustrations. Price 2s.]

TAYLOR, ISAAC. "The Origin of the Aryans." (Walter Scott.)
[An account of the prehistoric Ethnology and Civilization of Europe. A volume of the "Contemporary Science Series." Cloth. Pp. 340. Price 3s. 6d.]

TUCKERMANN, BAYARD. "Life of General Lafayette, with a Critical Estimate of his Character and Public Acts." (Sampson Low.)
[A biography in two volumes. Portraits.]

WEDMORE, FREDERICK. "Life of Honoré de Balzac." (Walter Scott).
[A volume of the "Great Writers Series." Bibliography by Mr. J. P. Anderson. Cloth. Pp. 146. xv. Price 1s.]

We have also received the following books:—"A Life's Retribution," by Angus Macdonald (Remington); "At the Mercy of Tiberias," by A. E. Wilson (Belfast: Olley); "Y.M.C.A. Diary and Calendar" (Roberts); "Elocution Made Easy," by Edith Herand (Dean and Son); "Fragments of Fancy in Prose," by A. and L. Hare (Remington); "Merry Clappum Junction," by Arthur Kennedy (Remington); "Love in the Sunny South" (Remington); "Truth and Trinity" (Digby and Long); and the "Advertiser's Guardian" (Louis Collins).

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Lloyds Bank (Limited), 72, Lombard-street, E.C.; 54, St. James's-street, S.W.; and Branches.

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SOLICITORS.

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Messrs. Coleman and Co., 77, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

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